

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to early learning and early grade
3 success; amending s. 20.055, F.S.; conforming
4 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
5 20.15, F.S.; deleting the Office of Early Learning
6 from within the Office of Independent Education and
7 Parental Choice of the Department of Education;
8 establishing the Division of Early Learning within the
9 department; amending s. 39.202, F.S.; conforming
10 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
11 39.604, F.S.; revising approved child care or early
12 education settings for the placement of certain
13 children; conforming a cross-reference to changes made
14 by the act; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; conforming
15 provisions to changes made by the act; amending ss.
16 383.14, 391.308, and 402.26, F.S.; conforming
17 provisions and cross-references to changes made by the
18 act; transferring, renumbering, and amending s.
19 402.281, F.S.; revising the requirements of the Gold
20 Seal Quality Care program; requiring the State Board
21 of Education to adopt specified rules; revising
22 accrediting association requirements; providing
23 requirements for accrediting associations; requiring
24 the department to adopt a specified process; providing
25 requirements for such process; deleting a requirement

26 for the department to consult certain entities for
27 specified purposes; providing requirements for certain
28 providers to maintain Gold Seal Quality Care status;
29 providing exemptions to certain ad valorem taxes;
30 providing rate differentials to certain providers;
31 providing for a type two transfer of the Gold Seal
32 Quality Care program in the Department of Children and
33 Families to the Department of Education; providing for
34 the continuation of certain contracts and interagency
35 agreements; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; providing
36 requirements for minimum child care licensing
37 standards; requiring such standards adopted after a
38 specified date to be ratified by the Legislature;
39 revising requirements relating to staff trained in
40 cardiopulmonary resuscitation; amending s. 402.315,
41 F.S.; conforming a cross-reference to changes made by
42 the act; amending s. 402.56, F.S.; revising the
43 membership of the Children and Youth Cabinet; amending
44 ss. 411.226, 411.227, 414.295, 1000.01, 1000.02,
45 1000.03, 1000.04, 1000.21, 1001.02, 1001.03, 1001.10,
46 and 1001.11, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-
47 references to changes made by the act; repealing s.
48 1001.213, F.S., relating to the Office of Early
49 Learning; amending ss. 1001.215, 1001.23, 1001.70,
50 1001.706, 1002.22, 1002.32, 1002.34, and 1002.36 F.S.;

51 conforming provisions and cross-references to changes
52 made by the act; amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; requiring
53 students enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
54 Education Program to participate in a specified
55 screening and progress monitoring program; amending s.
56 1002.55, F.S.; authorizing certain child development
57 programs operating on a military installment to be
58 private prekindergarten providers within the Voluntary
59 Prekindergarten Education Program; providing that a
60 private prekindergarten provider is ineligible for
61 participation in the program under certain
62 circumstances; revising requirements a prekindergarten
63 instructor must meet; revising requirements for
64 specified courses for prekindergarten instructors;
65 providing liability insurance requirements for child
66 development programs operating on a military
67 installment participating in the program; requiring
68 early learning coalitions to verify private
69 prekindergarten provider compliance with specified
70 provisions; requiring such coalitions to remove a
71 providers eligibility under specified circumstances;
72 amending s. 1002.57, F.S.; revising the minimum
73 standards for a credential for certain prekindergarten
74 directors; amending s. 1002.59, F.S.; revising
75 requirements for emergent literacy and performance

76 standards training courses for prekindergarten
77 instructors; requiring the department to make certain
78 courses available; amending s. 1002.61, F.S.;
79 authorizing certain child development programs
80 operating on a military installment to be private
81 prekindergarten providers within the summer Voluntary
82 Prekindergarten Education Program; revising the
83 criteria for a teacher to receive priority for the
84 summer program in school district; requiring a child
85 development programs operating on a military
86 installment to comply with specified criteria;
87 requiring early learning coalitions to verify
88 specified information; providing for the removal of a
89 program provider from eligibility under certain
90 circumstances; amending s. 1002.63, F.S.; requiring
91 school districts to verify specified information;
92 providing for the removal of public school program
93 providers from the program under certain
94 circumstances; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.; revising the
95 performance standards for the Voluntary
96 Prekindergarten Education Program; requiring the
97 department to review and revise performance standards
98 on a specified schedule; revising curriculum
99 requirements for the program; requiring the department
100 to adopt procedures for the review and approval of

101 curricula for the program; deleting a required
102 preassessment and postassessment for the program;
103 creating s. 1002.68, F.S.; requiring providers of the
104 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
105 participate in a specified screening and progress
106 monitoring program; providing specified uses for the
107 results of such program; requiring certain portions of
108 the screening and progress monitoring program to be
109 administered by individuals who meet specified
110 criteria; requiring the results of specified
111 assessments to be reported to the parents of
112 participating students; providing requirements for
113 such assessments; providing department duties and
114 responsibilities relating to such assessments;
115 providing requirements for a specified methodology
116 used to calculate the results of such assessments;
117 requiring the department to establish a grading system
118 for program providers; providing for the adoption of a
119 minimum performance metric or grade for program
120 participation; providing procedures for a provider
121 whose score or grade falls below the minimum
122 requirement; providing for the revocation of program
123 eligibility for a provider; authorizing the department
124 to grant good cause exemptions to providers under
125 certain circumstances; providing department and

126 provider requirements for such exemptions; repealing
127 s. 1002.69, F.S., relating to Statewide kindergarten
128 screening and readiness rates; amending ss. 1002.71
129 and 1002.72, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes
130 made by the act; amending s. 1002.73, F.S.; requiring
131 the department to adopt a statewide provider contract;
132 requiring such contract to be published on the
133 department's website; providing requirements for such
134 contract; prohibiting providers from offering services
135 during an appeal of termination from the program;
136 providing applicability; requiring the department to
137 adopt specified procedures relating to the Voluntary
138 Prekindergarten Education Program; providing duties of
139 the department relating to such program; repealing s.
140 1002.75, F.S., relating to the powers and duties of
141 the Office of Early Learning; repealing s. 1002.77,
142 F.S., relating to the Florida Early Learning Advisory
143 Council; amending ss. 1002.79 and 1002.81, F.S.;
144 conforming provisions and cross-references to changes
145 made by the act; amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; providing
146 duties of the department relating to early learning;
147 exempting certain child development programs operating
148 on a military installment from specified inspection
149 requirements; requiring the department to monitor
150 specified standards and benchmarks for certain

151 purposes; requiring the department to provide
152 specified technical support; revising requirements for
153 a specified assessment program; requiring the
154 department to adopt requirements to make certain
155 contracted slots available to serve specified
156 populations; requiring the department to adopt
157 procedures for the merging of early learning
158 coalitions; revising the requirements for a specified
159 report; amending s. 1002.83, F.S.; revising the number
160 of authorized early learning coalitions; revising the
161 number of and requirements for members of an early
162 learning coalition; revising requirements for such
163 coalitions; amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; revising early
164 learning coalition responsibilities and duties;
165 revising requirements for the waiver of specified
166 copayments; amending s. 1002.85, F.S.; revising the
167 requirements for school readiness program plans;
168 amending s. 1002.88, F.S.; authorizing certain child
169 development programs operating on military
170 installations to participate in the school readiness
171 program; revising requirements to deliver such
172 program; providing that a specified annual inspection
173 for a child development program participating in the
174 school readiness program meets certain provider
175 requirements; providing requirements for a child

176 development program to meet certain liability
177 requirements; amending ss. 1002.89, 1002.895, 1002.91,
178 1002.92, 1002.93, F.S.; conforming provisions and
179 cross-references to changes made by the act; repealing
180 s. 1002.94, F.S., relating to the Child Care Executive
181 Partnership Program; amending ss. 1002.95, 1002.96,
182 1002.97, 1002.995, 1003.575, and 1007.01, F.S.;
183 conforming provisions and cross-references to changes
184 made by the act; creating s. 1008.2125, F.S.; creating
185 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
186 program within the department for specified purposes;
187 requiring the Commissioner of Education to design such
188 program; providing requirements for the administration
189 of such program and the use of results from the
190 program; providing requirements for the commissioner;
191 creating the Early Grade Success Advisory Committee;
192 providing duties of the committee; providing
193 membership of the committee; requiring the committee
194 to elect a chair and a vice chair; providing
195 requirements for such appointments; providing for per
196 diem for members of the committee; providing meeting
197 requirements for the committee; providing for a quorum
198 of the committee; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.;
199 authorizing certain students who enrolled in the
200 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to receive

201 intensive reading interventions using specified funds;
 202 amending ss. 1008.31, 1008.32, and 1008.33, F.S.;
 203 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 204 amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the research-based
 205 reading instruction allocation to authorize the use of
 206 such funds for certain intensive reading interventions
 207 for certain students; providing appropriations;
 208 providing requirements for the use of such funds;
 209 providing an effective date.

210

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

212

213 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
 214 section 20.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

215 20.055 Agency inspectors general.—

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

217 (a) "Agency head" means the Governor, a Cabinet officer,
 218 or a secretary or executive director as those terms are defined
 219 in s. 20.03, the chair of the Public Service Commission, the
 220 Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial
 221 Services Commission, the Director of the Office of Financial
 222 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the board of
 223 directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~
 224 ~~executive director of the Office of Early Learning,~~ and the
 225 Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

226 (d) "State agency" means each department created pursuant
 227 to this chapter and the Executive Office of the Governor, the
 228 Department of Military Affairs, the Fish and Wildlife
 229 Conservation Commission, the Office of Insurance Regulation of
 230 the Financial Services Commission, the Office of Financial
 231 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the Public
 232 Service Commission, the Board of Governors of the State
 233 University System, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~
 234 ~~Office of Early Learning,~~ and the state courts system.

235 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection (3) of
 236 section 20.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs
 237 (d) through (k), respectively, present paragraph (i) of
 238 subsection (3) and subsection (5) are amended, and a new
 239 paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to
 240 read:

241 20.15 Department of Education.—There is created a
 242 Department of Education.

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

245 (c) Division of Early Learning.

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

248 ~~1. The Office of Early Learning, which shall be~~
 249 ~~administered by an executive director who is fully accountable~~
 250 ~~to the Commissioner of Education. The executive director shall,~~

251 ~~pursuant to s. 1001.213, administer the early learning programs,~~
252 ~~including the school readiness program and the Voluntary~~
253 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program at the state level.~~

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

257 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The State Board of Education and
258 the Commissioner of Education shall assign to the divisions such
259 powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are necessary
260 to ensure the greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and
261 effectiveness of education for students in Early Learning-20 K-
262 ~~20~~ education under the jurisdiction of the State Board of
263 Education.

264 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
265 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

266 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
267 child abuse or neglect.—

268 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
269 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information
270 with respect to, the reporter which shall be released only as
271 provided in subsection (5), shall be granted only to the
272 following persons, officials, and agencies:

273 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of
274 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons
275 with Disabilities, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~

276 ~~Learning,~~ or county agencies responsible for carrying out:
 277 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
 278 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
 279 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
 280 4. Healthy Start services;
 281 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
 282 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393,
 283 family day care homes, providers who receive school readiness
 284 funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other homes used to
 285 provide for the care and welfare of children;
 286 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential
 287 group homes; or
 288 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided
 289 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
 290 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

291
 292 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice
 293 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant
 294 to chapters 984 and 985.

295 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
 296 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

297 39.604 Rilya Wilson Act; short title; legislative intent;
 298 child care; early education; preschool.—

299 (5) EDUCATIONAL STABILITY.—Just as educational stability
 300 is important for school-age children, it is also important to

301 minimize disruptions to secure attachments and stable
302 relationships with supportive caregivers of children from birth
303 to school age and to ensure that these attachments are not
304 disrupted due to placement in out-of-home care or subsequent
305 changes in out-of-home placement.

306 (b) If it is not in the best interest of the child for him
307 or her to remain in his or her child care or early education
308 setting upon entry into out-of-home care, the caregiver must
309 work with the case manager, guardian ad litem, child care and
310 educational staff, and educational surrogate, if one has been
311 appointed, to determine the best setting for the child. Such
312 setting may be a child care provider that receives a Gold Seal
313 Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, a
314 ~~provider participating in a quality rating system~~, a licensed
315 child care provider, a public school provider, or a license-
316 exempt child care provider, including religious-exempt and
317 registered providers, and nonpublic schools.

318 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section
319 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and
321 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the
322 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the
323 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following
324 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this
325 chapter.

326 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

327 (m) Educational materials purchased by certain child care
 328 facilities.—Educational materials, such as glue, paper, paints,
 329 crayons, unique craft items, scissors, books, ~~and~~ educational
 330 toys, purchased by a child care facility that meets the
 331 standards delineated in s. 402.305, is licensed under s.
 332 402.308, holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation
 333 pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, and provides basic health
 334 insurance to all employees are exempt from the taxes imposed by
 335 this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "basic
 336 health insurance" shall be defined and promulgated in rules
 337 developed jointly by the Department of Education ~~Children and~~
 338 ~~Families~~, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the
 339 Financial Services Commission.

340 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph
 341 (b) of subsection (2) of section 383.14, Florida Statutes, are
 342 amended to read:

343 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary
 344 and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.—

345 (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—To help ensure access to the
 346 maternal and child health care system, the Department of Health
 347 shall promote the screening of all newborns born in Florida for
 348 metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result
 349 in significant impairment of health or intellect, as screening
 350 programs accepted by current medical practice become available

351 and practical in the judgment of the department. The department
352 shall also promote the identification and screening of all
353 newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk
354 factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family
355 stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other high-
356 risk conditions associated with increased risk of infant
357 mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention,
358 remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited
359 to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and
360 case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and
361 intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately
362 following the birth of the child by the attending health care
363 provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals,
364 perinatal centers, county health departments, school health
365 programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and
366 reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

367 (b) Postnatal screening.—A risk factor analysis using the
368 department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be
369 conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the
370 birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of
371 Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for
372 in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk
373 assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that
374 establish thresholds for notification, further assessment,
375 referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or

376 | paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures
377 | for developing and using the screening instrument, notification,
378 | referral, and care coordination services, reporting
379 | requirements, management information, and maintenance of a
380 | computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which
381 | ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the
382 | provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No.
383 | 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting
384 | information and maintaining a confidential registry must include
385 | a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the
386 | state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with
387 | existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The
388 | department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the
389 | screening information registry is integrated with the
390 | department's automated data systems, including the Florida On-
391 | line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests
392 | and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health
393 | Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at
394 | such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department
395 | after consultation with the Genetics and Newborn Screening
396 | Advisory Council and the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~
397 | ~~Learning~~.

398 | (2) RULES.—

399 | (b) After consultation with the Department of Education
400 | ~~Office of Early Learning~~, the department shall adopt and enforce

401 rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for
402 environmental risk factors that place children and their
403 families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other
404 negative outcomes.

405 Section 7. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section
406 391.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

407 391.308 Early Steps Program.—The department shall
408 implement and administer part C of the federal Individuals with
409 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which shall be known as the
410 "Early Steps Program."

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

412 (h) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, with
413 the Medicaid program, the Department of Education program
414 pursuant to part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
415 Education Act, and programs providing child screening such as
416 the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, ~~the Office~~
417 ~~of Early Learning~~, Healthy Start, and the Help Me Grow program.

418 1. Coordination with the Medicaid program shall be
419 developed and maintained through written agreements with the
420 Agency for Health Care Administration and Medicaid managed care
421 organizations as well as through active and ongoing
422 communication with these organizations. The department shall
423 assist local program offices to negotiate agreements with
424 Medicaid managed care organizations in the service areas of the
425 local program offices. Such agreements may be formal or

426 informal.

427 2. Coordination with education programs pursuant to part B
428 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall
429 be developed and maintained through written agreements with the
430 Department of Education. The department shall assist local
431 program offices to negotiate agreements with school districts in
432 the service areas of the local program offices.

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

435 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

436 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~
437 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~
438 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~
439 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~
440 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~
441 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~
442 ~~196.198.~~

443 Section 9. Section 402.281, Florida Statutes, is
444 transferred, renumbered as section 1002.945, Florida Statutes,
445 and amended to read:

446 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

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

449 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home,
450 or family day care home that is accredited by an accrediting

451 association approved by the department under subsection (3) and
 452 meets all other requirements shall, upon application to the
 453 department, receive a separate "Gold Seal Quality Care"
 454 designation.

455 (2) The State Board of Education ~~department~~ shall adopt
 456 rules establishing Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation
 457 standards using nationally recognized accrediting standards and
 458 input from accrediting associations ~~based on the applicable~~
 459 ~~accrediting standards of the National Association for the~~
 460 ~~Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of~~
 461 ~~Family Child Care, and the National Early Childhood Program~~
 462 ~~Accreditation Commission.~~

463 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the department for
 464 participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care program, an
 465 accrediting association must apply to the department and
 466 demonstrate that it:

- 467 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.
- 468 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or
 469 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state
 470 board ~~department~~ under subsection (2).
- 471 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of
 472 State.
- 473 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation
 474 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:
 475 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care

476 provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process.
477 However, an accreditation may not be granted to a child care
478 facility, large family child care home, or family day care home
479 before the site is operational and is attended by children.

480 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and
481 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom
482 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

483 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to
484 ensure inter-rater reliability.

485 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include completion
486 of an audit and filing of an annual report with the department.

487 e. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite
488 verification and occur at least every 3 years.

489 f. A process for verifying continued accreditation
490 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of
491 facilities.

492 g. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to
493 failure to maintain accrediting standards.

494 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the
495 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a
496 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including
497 the department, the Department of Children and Families, the
498 Department of Health, local licensing entities if applicable,
499 and the early learning coalition.

500 (b) The department shall establish a process that verifies

501 that the accrediting association meets the provisions of
502 paragraph (a), which must include an auditing program and any
503 other procedures that may reasonably determine an accrediting
504 association's compliance with this section. If an accrediting
505 association is not in compliance and fails to cure its
506 deficiencies within 30 days, the department shall recommend to
507 the state board termination of the accrediting association's
508 participation as an accrediting association in the program for a
509 period of at least 2 year but no more than 5 years. If an
510 accrediting association is removed from being an approved
511 accrediting association, each child care provider accredited by
512 that association shall have up to 1 year to obtain a new
513 accreditation from a department approved accreditation
514 association.

515 (c) If an accrediting association has granted an
516 accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care
517 home, or family day care under fraudulent terms or failed to
518 conduct on-site verifications, the accrediting association shall
519 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under
520 subsection (6).

521 ~~(b) In approving accrediting associations, the department~~
522 ~~shall consult with the Department of Education, the Florida Head~~
523 ~~Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child~~
524 ~~Care Management, the Florida Family Child Care Home Association,~~
525 ~~the Florida Children's Forum, the Florida Association for the~~

526 ~~Education of the Young, the Child Development Education~~
527 ~~Alliance, the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools,~~
528 ~~the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, providers~~
529 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents.~~

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

534 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I
535 violations, as defined by rule by the Department of Children and
536 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for
537 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
538 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the
539 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
540 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

541 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or
542 more class II violations, as defined by rule by the Department
543 of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its
544 application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care
545 provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within
546 a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the
547 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
548 provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

549 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for
550 the same class III violation, as defined by rule by the

551 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and
552 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of
553 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for
554 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
555 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to
556 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be
557 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal
558 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III
559 violations for a period of 1 year.

560 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the department
561 determines through a formal process that a provider has been in
562 business for at least 5 years and has no other class I
563 violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state
564 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care
565 status. The state board's determination regarding such
566 provider's status is final.

567 (5) A child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305
568 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s.
569 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this
570 section shall be considered an educational institution for the
571 purpose of qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s.
572 196.198.

573 (6) A child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305
574 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s.
575 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this

576 section and which participates in the school readiness program
577 shall receive a minimum of a 20 percent rate differential for
578 each enrolled school readiness child by care level and unit of
579 child care.

580 (7)(5) The state board ~~Department of Children and Families~~
581 shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide
582 criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting
583 associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care
584 program and, ~~conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal~~
585 ~~Quality Care providers, and classifying violations.~~

586 Section 10. Type two transfer from the Department of
587 Children and Families.-

588 (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,
589 personnel, associated administrative support positions,
590 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative
591 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of
592 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the
593 Gold Seal Quality Care program within the Department of Children
594 and Families are transferred by a type two transfer, as defined
595 in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Department of
596 Education.

597 (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing
598 before July 1, 2020, between the Department of Children and
599 Families, or an entity or agent of the department, and any other
600 agency, entity, or person relating to the Gold Seal Quality Care

601 program shall continue as a binding contract or agreement for
602 the remainder of the term of such contract or agreement on the
603 successor entity responsible for the program, activity, or
604 functions relative to the contract or agreement.

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

608 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

609 (1) LICENSING STANDARDS.—The department shall establish
610 licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must
611 meet regardless of the origin or source of the fees used to
612 operate the facility or the type of children served by the
613 facility.

614 (c) The minimum standards for child care facilities shall
615 be adopted in the rules of the department and shall address the
616 areas delineated in this section. The department, in adopting
617 rules to establish minimum standards for child care facilities,
618 shall recognize that different age groups of children may
619 require different standards. The department may adopt different
620 minimum standards for facilities that serve children in
621 different age groups, including school-age children. The
622 department shall also adopt by rule a definition for child care
623 which distinguishes between child care programs that require
624 child care licensure and after-school programs that do not
625 require licensure. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to

626 the contrary, minimum child care licensing standards shall be
627 developed to provide for reasonable, affordable, and safe
628 before-school and after-school care and may not exceed standards
629 expressly set forth in ss. 402.301-401.319. Licensing standards
630 adopted by the department on or after July 1, 2020, must be
631 ratified by the Legislature. After-school programs that
632 otherwise meet the criteria for exclusion from licensure may
633 provide snacks and meals through the federal Afterschool Meal
634 Program (AMP) administered by the Department of Health in
635 accordance with federal regulations and standards. The
636 Department of Health shall consider meals to be provided through
637 the AMP only if the program is actively participating in the
638 AMP, is in good standing with the department, and the meals meet
639 AMP requirements. Standards, at a minimum, shall allow for a
640 credentialed director to supervise multiple before-school and
641 after-school sites.

642 (7) SANITATION AND SAFETY.—

643 (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for
644 sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency
645 procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The
646 minimum standards shall require that ~~at least~~ one staff person
647 trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as evidenced by
648 current documentation of course completion, must be present at
649 all times that children are present.

650 Section 12. Subsection (5) of section 402.315, Florida

651 Statutes, is amended to read:

652 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

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

658 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 659 402.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

660 402.56 Children's cabinet; organization; responsibilities;
 661 annual report.—

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

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

665 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;

666 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with
 667 Disabilities;

668 4. A representative from the Division ~~The director of the~~
 669 ~~Office~~ of Early Learning;

670 5. The State Surgeon General;

671 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;

672 7. The Commissioner of Education;

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

674 9. A representative of the Office of Adoption and Child
 675 Protection;

676 10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the
677 Governor; and

678 11. Five members who represent children and youth advocacy
679 organizations and who are not service providers, appointed by
680 the Governor.

681 Section 14. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section
682 411.226, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

683 411.226 Learning Gateway.—

684 (2) LEARNING GATEWAY STEERING COMMITTEE.—

685 (e) To support and facilitate system improvements, the
686 steering committee must consult with representatives from the
687 Department of Education, the Department of Health, ~~the Office of~~
688 ~~Early Learning~~, the Department of Children and Families, the
689 Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of
690 Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Corrections and with the
691 director of the Learning Development and Evaluation Center of
692 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

693 Section 15. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)
694 of subsection (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of
695 section 411.227, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

696 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.—The Learning
697 Gateway system consists of the following components:

698 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED
699 ACCESS.—

700 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the

701 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies
702 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,
703 precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,
704 and the service system that is available. The information should
705 target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should
706 be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers
707 of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should
708 be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a
709 community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such
710 as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child
711 checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide
712 technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in
713 developing and distributing educational materials and
714 information.

715 1. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
716 children from birth through age 5 shall be designed to provide
717 information to public and private preschool programs, child care
718 providers, pediatricians, parents, and local businesses and
719 organizations. These strategies should include information on
720 the school readiness performance standards adopted by the
721 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

722 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
723 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate
724 training materials and brochures to parents and public and
725 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local

726 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in
727 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain
728 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades
729 K-3.

730 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.—

731 (a) In coordination with ~~the Office of Early Learning,~~ the
732 Department of Education~~,~~ and the Florida Pediatric Society, and
733 using information learned from the local demonstration projects,
734 the Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall establish
735 guidelines for screening children from birth through age 9. The
736 guidelines should incorporate recent research on the indicators
737 most likely to predict early learning problems, mild
738 developmental delays, child-specific precursors of school
739 failure, and other related developmental indicators in the
740 domains of cognition; communication; attention; perception;
741 behavior; and social, emotional, sensory, and motor functioning.

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

743 (c) The steering committee, in cooperation with the
744 Department of Children and Families and, the Department of
745 Education, ~~and the Office of Early Learning,~~ shall identify the
746 elements of an effective research-based curriculum for early
747 care and education programs.

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

750 414.295 Temporary cash assistance programs; public records

751 exemption.—

752 (1) Personal identifying information of a temporary cash
753 assistance program participant, a participant's family, or a
754 participant's family or household member, except for information
755 identifying a parent who does not live in the same home as the
756 child, which is held by the department, ~~the Office of Early~~
757 ~~Learning~~, CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Health,
758 the Department of Revenue, the Department of Education, or a
759 local workforce development board or local committee created
760 pursuant to s. 445.007 is confidential and exempt from s.
761 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such
762 confidential and exempt information may be released for purposes
763 directly connected with:

764 (a) The administration of the temporary assistance for
765 needy families plan under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act,
766 as amended, by the department, ~~the Office of Early Learning~~,
767 CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Military Affairs,
768 the Department of Health, the Department of Revenue, the
769 Department of Education, a local workforce development board or
770 local committee created pursuant to s. 445.007, or a school
771 district.

772 (b) The administration of the state's plan or program
773 approved under Title IV-B, Title IV-D, or Title IV-E of the
774 Social Security Act, as amended, or under Title I, Title X,
775 Title XIV, Title XVI, Title XIX, Title XX, or Title XXI of the

776 Social Security Act, as amended.

777 (c) An investigation, prosecution, or criminal, civil, or
778 administrative proceeding conducted in connection with the
779 administration of any of the plans or programs specified in
780 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a federal, state, or local
781 governmental entity, upon request by that entity, if such
782 request is made pursuant to the proper exercise of that entity's
783 duties and responsibilities.

784 (d) The administration of any other state, federal, or
785 federally assisted program that provides assistance or services
786 on the basis of need, in cash or in kind, directly to a
787 participant.

788 (e) An audit or similar activity, such as a review of
789 expenditure reports or financial review, conducted in connection
790 with the administration of plans or programs specified in
791 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a governmental entity
792 authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity.

793 (f) The administration of the reemployment assistance
794 program.

795 (g) The reporting to the appropriate agency or official of
796 information about known or suspected instances of physical or
797 mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent
798 treatment or maltreatment of a child or elderly person receiving
799 assistance, if circumstances indicate that the health or welfare
800 of the child or elderly person is threatened.

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

803 Section 17. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
 804 to read:

805 1000.01 The Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
 806 system; technical provisions.—

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

809 (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions of the Florida
 810 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code shall be liberally
 811 construed to the end that its objectives may be effected. It is
 812 the legislative intent that if any section, subsection,
 813 sentence, clause, or provision of the Florida Early Learning-20
 814 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is held invalid, the remainder of the code
 815 shall not be affected.

816 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Florida Early Learning-20
 817 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is to provide by law for a state system of
 818 schools, courses, classes, and educational institutions and
 819 services adequate to allow, for all Florida's students, the
 820 opportunity to obtain a high quality education. The Florida
 821 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system is established to
 822 accomplish this purpose; however, nothing in this code shall be
 823 construed to require the provision of free public education
 824 beyond grade 12.

825 (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS INCLUDED.—As

826 required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the Florida
827 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall include the
828 uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public K-12
829 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of instruction,
830 beginning with kindergarten, and shall also provide such
831 instruction for students with disabilities, gifted students,
832 limited English proficient students, and students in Department
833 of Juvenile Justice programs as may be required by law. The
834 funds for support and maintenance of the uniform system of free
835 public K-12 schools shall be derived from state, district,
836 federal, and other lawful sources or combinations of sources,
837 including any fees charged nonresidents as provided by law.

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

840 1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida
841 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

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

844 (a) A coordinated, seamless system for kindergarten
845 through graduate school education.

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

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

849 (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports academic
850 excellence.

851 (e) A system that provides for local operational
852 flexibility while promoting accountability for student
853 achievement and improvement.

854 Section 19. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is amended
855 to read:

856 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida Early
857 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

858 (1) Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
859 shall be a decentralized system without excess layers of
860 bureaucracy. Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
861 shall maintain a systemwide technology plan based on a common
862 set of data definitions.

863 (2) (a) The Legislature shall establish education policy,
864 enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate education
865 resources.

866 (b) With the exception of matters relating to the State
867 University System, the State Board of Education shall oversee
868 the enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision
869 of direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,
870 and strong incentives and disincentives to force accountability
871 for results.

872 (c) The Board of Governors shall oversee the enforcement
873 of all state university laws and rules and regulations and the
874 timely provision of direction, resources, assistance,
875 intervention when needed, and strong incentives and

876 disincentives to force accountability for results.

877 (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the
878 state and local educational authorities. The state retains
879 responsibility for establishing a system of public education
880 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient operation
881 of an Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ system of public education and
882 adequate educational opportunities for all individuals. Local
883 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully
884 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to efficiently
885 use the resources available to them to assist the state in
886 allowing adequate educational opportunities.

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

893 (5) The priorities of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
894 education system include:

895 (a) Learning and completion at all levels, including
896 increased high school graduation rate and readiness for
897 postsecondary education without remediation.—All students
898 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,
899 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter
900 postsecondary education without remediation.

901 (b) Student performance.—Students demonstrate that they
902 meet the expected academic standards consistently at all levels
903 of their education.

904 (c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become
905 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive
906 contributions to their communities.

907 (d) Alignment of standards and resources.—Academic
908 standards for every level of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
909 education system are aligned, and education financial resources
910 are aligned with student performance expectations at each level
911 of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

912 (e) Educational leadership.—The quality of educational
913 leadership at all levels of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education is
914 improved.

915 (f) Workforce education.—Workforce education is
916 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new global
917 economy.

918 (g) Parental, student, family, educational institution,
919 and community involvement.—Parents, students, families,
920 educational institutions, and communities are collaborative
921 partners in education, and each plays an important role in the
922 success of individual students. Therefore, the State of Florida
923 cannot be the guarantor of each individual student's success.
924 The goals of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
925 are not guarantees that each individual student will succeed or

926 that each individual school will perform at the level indicated
927 in the goals.

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

933 1. Career opportunities, educational requirements
934 associated with each career, educational institutions that
935 prepare students to enter each career, and student financial aid
936 available to pursue postsecondary instruction required to enter
937 each career.

938 2. How to make informed decisions about the program of
939 study that best addresses the students' interests and abilities
940 while preparing them to enter postsecondary education or the
941 workforce.

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

944
945 This information shall be provided to students and parents
946 through websites, handbooks, manuals, or other regularly
947 provided communications.

948 Section 20. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended
949 to read:

950 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education

951 within the Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—
952 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system provides for
953 the delivery of early learning and public education through
954 publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College
955 System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary
956 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and
957 other educational services as provided or authorized by the
958 Constitution and laws of the state.

959 (1) EARLY LEARNING.—Early learning includes the Voluntary
960 Prekindergarten Education Program and the school readiness
961 program.

962 (2)~~(1)~~ PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.—The public K-12 schools
963 include charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes;
964 elementary, middle, and high school grades and special classes;
965 virtual instruction programs; workforce education; career
966 centers; adult, part-time, and evening schools, courses, or
967 classes, as authorized by law to be operated under the control
968 of district school boards; and lab schools operated under the
969 control of state universities.

970 (3)~~(2)~~ PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—
971 Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce
972 education; Florida College System institutions; state
973 universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary
974 educational institutions that are authorized and established by
975 law.

976 (4)~~(3)~~ FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.—The
 977 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of the
 978 delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20
 979 ~~K-20~~ education system.

980 (5)~~(4)~~ THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.—The Florida Virtual
 981 School is a component of the delivery of public education within
 982 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

983 Section 21. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended
 984 to read:

985 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida
 986 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code:

987 (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that
 988 provides the means by which students proceed toward their
 989 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner
 990 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade level,
 991 from elementary to middle to high school, to and through
 992 postsecondary education, and when transferring from one
 993 educational institution or program to another.

994 (2) "Commissioner" is the Commissioner of Education.

995 (3) "Florida College System institution" except as
 996 otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following
 997 public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida
 998 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other
 999 affiliates of the institution:

1000 (a) Eastern Florida State College, which serves Brevard

- 1001 County.
- 1002 (b) Broward College, which serves Broward County.
- 1003 (c) College of Central Florida, which serves Citrus, Levy,
- 1004 and Marion Counties.
- 1005 (d) Chipola College, which serves Calhoun, Holmes,
- 1006 Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties.
- 1007 (e) Daytona State College, which serves Flagler and
- 1008 Volusia Counties.
- 1009 (f) Florida SouthWestern State College, which serves
- 1010 Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties.
- 1011 (g) Florida State College at Jacksonville, which serves
- 1012 Duval and Nassau Counties.
- 1013 (h) The College of the Florida Keys, which serves Monroe
- 1014 County.
- 1015 (i) Gulf Coast State College, which serves Bay, Franklin,
- 1016 and Gulf Counties.
- 1017 (j) Hillsborough Community College, which serves
- 1018 Hillsborough County.
- 1019 (k) Indian River State College, which serves Indian River,
- 1020 Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties.
- 1021 (l) Florida Gateway College, which serves Baker, Columbia,
- 1022 Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties.
- 1023 (m) Lake-Sumter State College, which serves Lake and
- 1024 Sumter Counties.
- 1025 (n) State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, which

- 1026 | serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.
- 1027 | (o) Miami Dade College, which serves Miami-Dade County.
- 1028 | (p) North Florida College, which serves Hamilton,
- 1029 | Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.
- 1030 | (q) Northwest Florida State College, which serves Okaloosa
- 1031 | and Walton Counties.
- 1032 | (r) Palm Beach State College, which serves Palm Beach
- 1033 | County.
- 1034 | (s) Pasco-Hernando State College, which serves Hernando
- 1035 | and Pasco Counties.
- 1036 | (t) Pensacola State College, which serves Escambia and
- 1037 | Santa Rosa Counties.
- 1038 | (u) Polk State College, which serves Polk County.
- 1039 | (v) St. Johns River State College, which serves Clay,
- 1040 | Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.
- 1041 | (w) St. Petersburg College, which serves Pinellas County.
- 1042 | (x) Santa Fe College, which serves Alachua and Bradford
- 1043 | Counties.
- 1044 | (y) Seminole State College of Florida, which serves
- 1045 | Seminole County.
- 1046 | (z) South Florida State College, which serves DeSoto,
- 1047 | Hardee, and Highlands Counties.
- 1048 | (aa) Tallahassee Community College, which serves Gadsden,
- 1049 | Leon, and Wakulla Counties.
- 1050 | (bb) Valencia College, which serves Orange and Osceola

1051 Counties.

1052 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.

1053 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student, any
 1054 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to
 1055 a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a
 1056 student in place of the parent.

1057 (6) "State university," except as otherwise specifically
 1058 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch
 1059 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

1060 (a) The University of Florida.

1061 (b) The Florida State University.

1062 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

1063 (d) The University of South Florida.

1064 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.

1065 (f) The University of West Florida.

1066 (g) The University of Central Florida.

1067 (h) The University of North Florida.

1068 (i) The Florida International University.

1069 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.

1070 (k) New College of Florida.

1071 (l) The Florida Polytechnic University.

1072 (7) "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" means the
 1073 state's public K-12 curricular standards adopted under s.
 1074 1003.41.

1075 (8) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the

1076 State University System.

1077 Section 22. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (s) of
 1078 subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended
 1079 to read:

1080 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—

1081 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief implementing
 1082 and coordinating body of public education in Florida except for
 1083 the State University System, and it shall focus on high-level
 1084 policy decisions. It has authority to adopt rules pursuant to
 1085 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law
 1086 conferring duties upon it for the improvement of the state
 1087 system of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public education except for the
 1088 State University System. Except as otherwise provided herein, it
 1089 may, as it finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the
 1090 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of
 1091 the department.

1092 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

1093 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and Legislature,
 1094 as provided in s. 216.023, a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 1095 education budget that estimates the expenditure requirements for
 1096 the Board of Governors, as provided in s. 1001.706, the State
 1097 Board of Education, including the Department of Education and
 1098 the Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards,
 1099 institutions, agencies, and services under the general
 1100 supervision of the Board of Governors, as provided in s.

1101 1001.706, or the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal
 1102 year. The State Board of Education may not amend the budget
 1103 request submitted by the Board of Governors. Any program
 1104 recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of
 1105 Education which will require increases in state funding for more
 1106 than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1107 (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the
 1108 implementation and operation of a systemwide ~~K-20~~ technology
 1109 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

1110 Section 23. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1001.03,
 1111 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1112 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

1113 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.—The State Board of Education
 1114 shall enforce compliance with law and state board rule by all
 1115 school districts, early learning coalitions, and public
 1116 postsecondary educational institutions, except for the State
 1117 University System, in accordance with the provisions of s.
 1118 1008.32.

1119 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.—The State Board of
 1120 Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors regarding
 1121 the State University System, shall continue to collect and
 1122 maintain, at a minimum, the management information databases for
 1123 state universities, and all other components of the public Early
 1124 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system as such databases existed on
 1125 June 30, 2002.

1126 Section 24. Subsection (1), paragraphs (g), (k), and (l)
1127 of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1001.10,
1128 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1129 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and
1130 duties.—

1131 (1) The Commissioner of Education is the chief educational
1132 officer of the state and the sole custodian of the educational
1133 ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, and is responsible for giving full
1134 assistance to the State Board of Education in enforcing
1135 compliance with the mission and goals of the Early Learning ~~K-20~~
1136 education system, except for the State University System.

1137 (6) Additionally, the commissioner has the following
1138 general powers and duties:

1139 (g) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or
1140 before October 1 of each year, recommendations for a coordinated
1141 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education budget that estimates the
1142 expenditures for the Board of Governors, the State Board of
1143 Education, including the Department of Education and the
1144 Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards, institutions,
1145 agencies, and services under the general supervision of the
1146 Board of Governors or the State Board of Education for the
1147 ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State Board
1148 of Education that will require increases in state funding for
1149 more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1150 (k) To prepare, publish, and disseminate user-friendly

1151 materials relating to the state's education system, including
 1152 the state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness
 1153 program, and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1154 (1) To prepare and publish annually reports giving
 1155 statistics and other useful information pertaining to the
 1156 state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness program,
 1157 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1158 (8) In the event of an emergency situation, the
 1159 commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means
 1160 of communication with early learning coalitions, local school
 1161 districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite
 1162 offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of
 1163 Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and
 1164 assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite
 1165 office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after
 1166 considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and
 1167 clients.

1168 Section 25. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection
 1169 (4) of section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1170 1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—

1171 (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently
 1172 perform the following duties:

1173 (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the
 1174 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the
 1175 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State

1176 Board of Education, the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system,
1177 and early learning programs.

1178 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an
1179 integrated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ information system for
1180 educational management in accordance with the requirements of
1181 chapter 1008.

1182 Section 26. Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes, is
1183 repealed.

1184 Section 27. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida
1185 Statutes, is amended to read:

1186 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in
1187 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The
1188 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and
1189 shall:

1190 (7) Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance to
1191 school districts' implementation of the ~~K-12~~ comprehensive
1192 reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

1193 Section 28. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida
1194 Statutes, is amended to read:

1195 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of
1196 Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law
1197 or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department
1198 shall:

1199 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~
1200 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

1201 Section 29. Subsection (3) of section 1001.70, Florida
 1202 Statutes, is amended to read:

1203 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University
 1204 System.—

1205 (3) The Board of Governors, in exercising its authority
 1206 under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its
 1207 authority in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances an
 1208 Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ education system that provides
 1209 affordable access to postsecondary educational opportunities for
 1210 residents of the state to the extent authorized by the State
 1211 Constitution and state law.

1212 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
 1213 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1214 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

1215 (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.—

1216 (b) The Board of Governors shall prepare the legislative
 1217 budget requests for the State University System, including a
 1218 request for fixed capital outlay, and submit them to the State
 1219 Board of Education for inclusion in the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 1220 legislative budget request. The Board of Governors shall provide
 1221 the state universities with fiscal policy guidelines, formats,
 1222 and instruction for the development of individual university
 1223 budget requests.

1224 Section 31. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1225 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1226 1002.22 Education records and reports of K-12 students;
 1227 rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.—

1228 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1229 (b) "Institution" means any public school, center,
 1230 institution, or other entity that is part of Florida's education
 1231 system under s. 1000.04(2), (4), and (5) ~~s. 1000.04(1), (3), and~~
 1232 ~~(4)~~.

1233 Section 32. Subsection (3) of section 1002.32, Florida
 1234 Statutes, is amended to read:

1235 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

1236 (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the
 1237 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,
 1238 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,
 1239 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school
 1240 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.
 1241 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an
 1242 appropriate education for its students.

1243 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics, science,
 1244 computer science, and foreign languages. The primary goal of a
 1245 lab school is to enhance instruction and research in such
 1246 specialized subjects by using the resources available on a state
 1247 university campus, while also providing an education in
 1248 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide
 1249 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where
 1250 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade

1251 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State
1252 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement
1253 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

1254 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1255 lab school may be generated by the college of education and
1256 other colleges within the university with which the school is
1257 affiliated.

1258 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1259 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.
1260 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education
1261 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the
1262 affiliated college.

1263 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1264 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the
1265 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the
1266 Legislature.

1267 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab
1268 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals
1269 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.
1270 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education
1271 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the
1272 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

1273 Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section
1274 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1275 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.-

1276 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

1277 (b) A center must comply with the Florida Early Learning-
1278 20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code with respect to providing services to
1279 students with disabilities.

1280 Section 34. Subsection (1) of section 1002.36, Florida
1281 Statutes, is amended to read:

1282 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

1283 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida School for the Deaf and
1284 the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported
1285 residential public school for hearing-impaired and visually
1286 impaired students in preschool through 12th grade. The school is
1287 a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's
1288 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system and shall be funded
1289 through the Department of Education. The school shall provide
1290 educational programs and support services appropriate to meet
1291 the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of
1292 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in the state who
1293 meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the
1294 school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state
1295 agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach
1296 basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5 years and
1297 to district school boards upon request. Graduates of the Florida
1298 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the
1299 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant
1300 Program as provided in s. 1009.89.

1301 Section 35. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsection
 1302 (5) of section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, are amended, and
 1303 paragraph (d) is added to subsection (6), to read:

1304 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
 1305 eligibility and enrollment.—

1306 (4)

1307 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed
 1308 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ and must be
 1309 accompanied by a certified copy of the child's birth
 1310 certificate. The forms must include a certification, in
 1311 substantially the form provided in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the
 1312 parent chooses the private prekindergarten provider or public
 1313 school in accordance with this section and directs that payments
 1314 for the program be made to the provider or school. The
 1315 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ may authorize alternative
 1316 methods for submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a
 1317 certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

1318 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent
 1319 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1320 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider
 1321 and public school delivering the program within the county where
 1322 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to
 1323 parents in a format prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~
 1324 ~~Learning~~. The profiles must include, at a minimum, the following
 1325 information about each provider and school:

1326 (a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,
 1327 instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and
 1328 (b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate
 1329 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69,~~ based upon the most
 1330 recent available results of the statewide kindergarten screening
 1331 until the provider's or school's performance metric and grade
 1332 are available pursuant to s. 1002.68.

1333 (6)
 1334 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the
 1335 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or
 1336 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and
 1337 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.

1338 Section 36. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i),
 1339 (j), and (l) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph
 1340 (b) of subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are
 1341 amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1342 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 1343 private prekindergarten providers.—

1344 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
 1345 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
 1346 following requirements:

1347 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
 1348 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
 1349 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
 1350 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under

1351 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from
1352 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is
1353 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1354 military installation that is certified by the United States
1355 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that
1356 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A
1357 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program
1358 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1359 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

1360 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a
1361 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,
1362 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be
1363 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
1364 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central
1365 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States
1366 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association
1367 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation
1368 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements
1369 under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at
1370 least one onsite visit to the provider or school before
1371 accreditation is granted;

1372 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under
1373 s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~; or

1374 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
1375 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary

1376 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early
1377 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the
1378 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not
1379 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background
1380 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)
1381 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),
1382 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a
1383 developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

1384 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for
1385 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one
1386 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following
1387 requirements:

1388 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,
1389 one of the following credentials:

1390 a. A child development associate credential issued by the
1391 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
1392 Recognition; or

1393 b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and
1394 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential
1395 described in sub-subparagraph a.

1396

1397 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under
1398 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures
1399 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

1400 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully

1401 complete at least three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses
1402 that include developmentally appropriate and experiential
1403 learning practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance
1404 standards training course approved by the department ~~office~~ as
1405 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.
1406 1002.59. The requirement for completion of the standards
1407 training course shall take effect July 1, 2021 ~~2014~~, and be
1408 recognized as part of the informal early learning career pathway
1409 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). ~~Such and~~
1410 ~~the~~ course shall be available online or in person.

1411 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a
1412 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
1413 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
1414 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1415 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1416 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1417 screening requirements in chapter 435. The department ~~Office of~~
1418 ~~Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph
1419 which shall include required qualifications of substitute
1420 instructors and the circumstances and time limits for which a
1421 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute
1422 instructor.

1423 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a
1424 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director
1425 credential that is approved by the department ~~office~~ as meeting

1426 or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57.
1427 ~~Successful completion of a child care facility director~~
1428 ~~credential under s. 402.305(2)(g) before the establishment of~~
1429 ~~the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July~~
1430 ~~1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a~~
1431 ~~prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.~~

1432 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register
1433 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the
1434 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

1435 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the
1436 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~
1437 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple
1438 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's
1439 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition
1440 on behalf of each site ~~provider~~.

1441 (j) The private prekindergarten provider must maintain
1442 general liability insurance and provide the coalition with
1443 written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
1444 including coverage for transportation of children if
1445 prekindergarten students are transported by the provider. A
1446 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that
1447 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a
1448 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
1449 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
1450 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder

1451 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the
1452 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written
1453 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general
1454 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in
1455 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider
1456 contract with the coalition.

1457 (1) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private
1458 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision
1459 thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to
1460 notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage
1461 maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise
1462 established under s. 768.28. The provider shall indemnify the
1463 coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28. Notwithstanding
1464 paragraph (j), for a child development program that is
1465 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1466 military installation that is certified by the United States
1467 Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability
1468 coverage by affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort
1469 Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. s. 2671 et seq.

1470 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum
1471 credentials ~~and courses~~ required under paragraph (3)(c), may
1472 hold one of the following educational credentials:

1473 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood
1474 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool
1475 education, or family and consumer science;

1476 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,
1477 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach
1478 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of
1479 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if
1480 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school
1481 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

1482 (c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;

1483 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,
1484 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child
1485 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or
1486 providing child care services for children any age from birth
1487 through 8 years of age; or

1488 (e) An educational credential approved by the department
1489 as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential
1490 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria
1491 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials
1492 under this paragraph.

1493 (5)

1494 (b) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, if a
1495 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
1496 violation, as defined by rule by the Child Care Services Program
1497 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
1498 may refuse to contract with the provider.

1499 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each
1500 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary

1501 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
1502 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private
1503 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this
1504 part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require the
1505 early learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility
1506 to deliver the program and receive state funds under this part
1507 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1508 Section 37. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of
1509 section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
1510 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, subsection (1) is amended,
1511 and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (2) of that
1512 section, to read:

1513 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

1514 (1) The department ~~office~~, in consultation with the
1515 Department of Children and Families, shall adopt minimum
1516 standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of
1517 private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary
1518 Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass
1519 requirements for education and onsite experience.

1520 (2) The educational requirements must include training in
1521 the following:

1522 (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-
1523 level data to inform the delivery of instruction;

1524 Section 38. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended
1525 to read:

1526 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards
1527 training courses.—

1528 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
1529 for ~~one or more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for
1530 prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock
1531 hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to
1532 address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students
1533 in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral
1534 communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and
1535 phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension
1536 development. Each course must also provide resources containing
1537 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other
1538 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary
1539 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an
1540 emergent literacy training course approved under this section
1541 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy
1542 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6),
1543 and 402.3131(5).

1544 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
1545 for ~~one or more training~~ courses on the performance standards
1546 adopted under s. 1002.67(1). Each course must be comprised of
1547 ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide instruction in
1548 strategies and techniques to address age-appropriate progress of
1549 each child in attaining the standards, and be available online.

1550 (3) The department shall make available online

1551 professional development and training courses comprised of at
1552 least 8 clock hours that support prekindergarten instructors in
1553 increasing the competency of teacher-child interactions.

1554 Section 39. Subsections (6) through (8) of section
1555 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7)
1556 through (9), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (1),
1557 paragraph (b) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and present
1558 subsections (6) and (8) are amended, and new subsections (6) and
1559 (10) are added to that section, to read:

1560 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
1561 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

1562 (1)

1563 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the
1564 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or
1565 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a
1566 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private
1567 prekindergarten provider. A child development program that is
1568 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1569 military installation that is certified by the United States
1570 Department of Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten
1571 program as a private prekindergarten provider.

1572 (3)

1573 (b) Each public school delivering the summer
1574 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
1575 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the

1576 school district may execute a single agreement with the early
1577 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1578 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),
1579 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must
1580 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one
1581 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds
1582 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)
1583 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"
1584 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate
1585 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the
1586 district school board to instruct students in the summer
1587 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for
1588 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall
1589 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in
1590 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy
1591 and performance standards courses, as defined in s.
1592 1002.55(3)(c)2.

1593 (6) A child development program that is accredited by a
1594 national accrediting body and operates on a military
1595 installation that is certified by the United States Department
1596 of Defense shall comply with the requirements of a private
1597 prekindergarten provider in this section.

1598 (7)~~(6)~~ A public school or private prekindergarten provider
1599 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a
1600 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned

1601 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1602 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1603 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1604 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
1605 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
1606 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
1607 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
1608 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
1609 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
1610 circumstances and time limits for which a public school or
1611 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute
1612 instructor.

1613 (9) ~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the summer
1614 prekindergarten program must also register with the early
1615 learning coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office~~
1616 ~~of Early Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1617 Education Program in accordance with this part.

1618 (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
1619 each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary
1620 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
1621 or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district
1622 school board shall verify that each public school delivering the
1623 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program within the school
1624 district complies with this part.

1625 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school

1626 fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in
 1627 misconduct, the department shall require the early learning
 1628 coalition to remove the provider or require the school district
 1629 to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary
 1630 Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state funds under
 1631 this part for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5
 1632 years.

1633 Section 40. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and
 1634 subsections (6) and (8) of section 1002.63, Florida Statutes,
 1635 are amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to
 1636 read:

1637 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 1638 public schools.—

1639 (3)

1640 (b) Each public school delivering the school-year
 1641 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
 1642 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the
 1643 school district may execute a single agreement with the early
 1644 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1645 (6) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a
 1646 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
 1647 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
 1648 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
 1649 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
 1650 before employment in accordance with level 2 background

1651 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
1652 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
1653 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
1654 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
1655 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
1656 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
1657 circumstances and time limits for which a public school
1658 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

1659 (8) Each public school delivering the school-year
1660 prekindergarten program must register with the early learning
1661 coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~
1662 ~~Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1663 Program in accordance with this part.

1664 (9) (a) Each district school board shall verify that each
1665 public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1666 Program within the school district complies with this part.

1667 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with
1668 this part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require
1669 the school district to remove the school from eligibility to
1670 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
1671 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2
1672 years but no more than 5 years.

1673 Section 41. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended
1674 to read:

1675 1002.67 Performance standards and~~+~~ curricula ~~and~~

1676 accountability.—

1677 (1) (a) The department ~~office~~ shall develop and adopt
1678 performance standards for students in the Voluntary
1679 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards
1680 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the
1681 development of:

1682 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under
1683 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~

1684 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,
1685 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological
1686 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and

1687 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.

1688
1689 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~
1690 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~
1691 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~
1692 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

1693 (b) At least every 3 years, the department ~~office~~ shall
1694 ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the performance
1695 standards established under s. 1002.67 ~~for the statewide~~
1696 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align
1697 the standards to the standards established by the state board
1698 for student performance on the statewide assessments
1699 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

1700 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public

1701 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or
 1702 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1703 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school
 1704 that is placed on probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~.

1705 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
 1706 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
 1707 must:

1708 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and
 1709 provide for instruction in early math skills;

1710 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in
 1711 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
 1712 under subsection (1); and

1713 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated
 1714 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening
 1715 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 ~~Prepare~~
 1716 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~
 1717 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

1718 (c) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt procedures for the
 1719 review and approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private
 1720 prekindergarten providers and public schools that are placed on
 1721 probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~. The department
 1722 ~~office~~ shall administer the review and approval process and
 1723 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.
 1724 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph
 1725 (b).

1726 ~~(3) (a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~
1727 ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~
1728 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~
1729 ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~
1730 ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

1731 ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~
1732 ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~
1733 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~
1734 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

1735 ~~(c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by~~
1736 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~
1737 ~~State Board of Education.~~

1738 ~~(4) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~
1739 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~
1740 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~
1741 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~
1742 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~
1743 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

1744 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1745 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~
1746 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~
1747 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~
1748 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~
1749 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~
1750 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

1751 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~
1752 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~
1753 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1754 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~
1755 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~
1756 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~
1757 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~
1758 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~
1759 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~
1760 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~
1761 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~
1762 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~
1763 ~~office.~~

1764 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1765 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~
1766 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~
1767 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~
1768 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~
1769 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~
1770 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~
1771 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~
1772 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~
1773 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
1774 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

1775 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~

1776 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~
1777 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1778 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~
1779 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~
1780 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~
1781 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~
1782 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~
1783 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

1784 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~
1785 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~
1786 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~
1787 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~
1788 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~
1789 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~
1790 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~
1791 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

1792 Section 42. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created
1793 to read:

1794 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1795 accountability.—

1796 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 program year, each
1797 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating
1798 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must
1799 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
1800 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated

1801 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used
1802 by the department to identify student learning gains, index
1803 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative
1804 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and
1805 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten
1806 provider's and public school's performance metric.

1807 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress
1808 monitoring or screening must be administered by individuals
1809 meeting requirements adopted by the department pursuant to s.
1810 1008.2125.

1811 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
1812 school must provide a student's performance results from the
1813 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's
1814 parents within 7 days after the administration of such
1815 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

1816 (2) Beginning with the 2020-2021 program year, each
1817 private prekindergarten provider and public school in the
1818 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in
1819 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education
1820 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of
1821 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,
1822 classroom organization, and instructional support for children
1823 ages 3 to 5 years. Each private prekindergarten provider and
1824 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1825 shall receive from the department the results of the program

1826 assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the
1827 observation. The program assessment must be administered by
1828 individuals who meet requirements established by rule of the
1829 State Board of Education.

1830 (3) (a) For the 2019-2020 program year, the department
1831 shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private
1832 prekindergarten provider and public school in the Voluntary
1833 Prekindergarten Education Program based upon learning gains and
1834 the percentage of students who are assessed as ready for
1835 kindergarten. The department shall require that each school
1836 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use
1837 before the 2020-2021 school year to each kindergarten student in
1838 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2020-
1839 2021 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide
1840 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private
1841 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1842 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a
1843 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results
1844 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2020-
1845 2021 program year. Any private prekindergarten provider or
1846 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1847 which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for
1848 the 2019-2020 program year is subject to the probation
1849 requirements of subsection (5).

1850 (b) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department shall

1851 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider
1852 based on the program assessment under subsection (2). Any
1853 private prekindergarten provider or public school in the
1854 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program which fails to meet
1855 the minimum program assessment composite score for the 2020-2021
1856 program year is subject to the probation requirements of
1857 subsection (5).

1858 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 program year, the
1859 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each
1860 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's
1861 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the
1862 following:

1863 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection
1864 (2), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1865 2. Learning gains operationalized as change in ability
1866 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results
1867 described in subsection (1).

1868 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes
1869 described in subsection (1).

1870 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's
1871 performance metric may only include prekindergarten students who
1872 have attended at least 85 percent of a private prekindergarten
1873 provider's or public school's program.

1874 (c) The program assessment composite score, performance
1875 metric, and grade must be calculated by private prekindergarten

1876 | or public school site.

1877 | (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent
1878 | profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent
1879 | expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early
1880 | childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability
1881 | systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a
1882 | limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the
1883 | profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the assignment
1884 | of a letter grading system to include grades "A" through "F".
1885 | The independent expert may not be a direct stakeholder or have
1886 | had a financial interest in the design or delivery of the
1887 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or public school
1888 | system within the last 5 years.

1889 | (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall
1890 | provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten
1891 | provider and public school based on the provider's grade. The
1892 | maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15
1893 | percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent
1894 | student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program
1895 | year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or
1896 | public school may not receive a differential payment if it is
1897 | assigned a grade of "C" or below. Before the adoption of the
1898 | methodology, the department and the contracted expert shall
1899 | confer with the Early Grade Success Advisory Committee under s.
1900 | 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the State Board of

1901 Education for the final recommendations on the grading system
1902 and differential payments.

1903 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually
1904 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1905 school's performance metric and grade based on the methodology
1906 adopted in paragraphs (a) and (b). Beginning with the 2022-2023
1907 program year, each private prekindergarten provider or public
1908 school shall be assigned a grade within 45 days after the
1909 conclusion of the school-year Voluntary Prekindergarten
1910 Education Program delivered by all participating private
1911 prekindergarten providers or public schools and within 45 days
1912 after the conclusion of the summer Voluntary Prekindergarten
1913 Education Program delivered by all participating private
1914 prekindergarten providers or public schools.

1915 (g) The department shall adopt a minimum performance
1916 metric or grade that, if achieved by a private prekindergarten
1917 provider or public school, would demonstrate the provider's or
1918 school's satisfactory delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1919 Education Program.

1920 (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten
1921 provider's program assessment composite score for its
1922 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum threshold
1923 for contracting established by the department pursuant to s.
1924 1002.82 (2) (n), the private prekindergarten provider or public
1925 school may not participate in the Voluntary Prekindergarten

1926 Education Program beginning in the consecutive program year and
1927 thereafter until the public school or private prekindergarten
1928 provider meets the minimum threshold for contracting.

1929 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public
1930 school's performance metric or grade falls below the minimum
1931 performance metric or grade, the early learning coalition or
1932 school district shall:

1933 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval
1934 to the coalition or school district an improvement plan and to
1935 implement the plan.

1936 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1937 3. Require the provider or school to take certain
1938 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved
1939 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development
1940 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional
1941 practices in emotional and behavioral support, engaged support
1942 for learning, classroom organization, language development,
1943 phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical
1944 thinking.

1945 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1946 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
1947 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets
1948 the minimum performance metric or grade adopted by the
1949 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs
1950 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's

1951 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1952 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more
1953 than 5 years.

1954 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1955 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
1956 the minimum performance metric or grade, or is not granted a
1957 good cause exemption by the department, the department shall
1958 require the early learning coalition or the school district to
1959 revoke the provider's or school's eligibility to deliver the
1960 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
1961 funds for the program for a period of at least 2 years but no
1962 more than 5 years.

1963 (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private
1964 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
1965 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently
1966 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or grade, and for
1967 good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an
1968 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the
1969 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
1970 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,
1971 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or
1972 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

1973 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public
1974 school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such
1975 an exemption, must be submitted to the department in the manner

1976 and within the timeframes prescribed by the department and must
1977 include the following:

1978 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or
1979 public school which documents the achievement and progress of
1980 the children served, as measured by any required screenings or
1981 assessments.

1982 2. Data from the program assessment required under s.
1983 1002.55 which demonstrates effective teaching practices as
1984 recognized by the tool developer.

1985 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district
1986 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and
1987 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting
1988 association, as applicable, relating to the private
1989 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with
1990 state and local health and safety standards.

1991 (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good
1992 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not
1993 limited to, all of the following:

1994 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private
1995 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically
1996 significant population of children with special needs who have
1997 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward
1998 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education
1999 plans.

2000 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary

2001 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten
2002 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has
2003 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening
2004 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

2005 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which
2006 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the
2007 tool developer.

2008 4. Verification that local and state health and safety
2009 requirements are met.

2010 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any
2011 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any
2012 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as
2013 defined by rule by the Department of Children and Families,
2014 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request
2015 for the exemption.

2016 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
2017 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its
2018 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required
2019 under subsection (5) (b) until the provider or school meets the
2020 minimum performance metric.

2021 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private
2022 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
2023 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all
2024 other applicable requirements of this part, the department shall
2025 notify the early learning coalition or school district of the

2026 good cause exemption and direct that the coalition or school
2027 district not remove the provider from eligibility to deliver the
2028 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state
2029 funds for the program.

2030 (g) The department shall report the number of private
2031 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a
2032 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part
2033 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(6).

2034 (7) Representatives from each school district and
2035 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to
2036 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary
2037 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

2038 Section 43. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is
2039 repealed.

2040 Section 44. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection
2041 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of
2042 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida
2043 Statutes, are amended to read:

2044 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

2045 (3)

2046 (c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated
2047 student enrollment in each coalition service area. The
2048 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall reallocate funds among
2049 the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student
2050 enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall

2051 report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a
2052 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal
2053 year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent
2054 fiscal year.

2055 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

2056 (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs
2057 listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent
2058 of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under
2059 subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the
2060 funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw
2061 from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the
2062 programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of
2063 the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time
2064 equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and
2065 reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued
2066 in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~
2067 uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

2068 (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the
2069 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw
2070 from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the
2071 child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer
2072 programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time
2073 equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is
2074 reenrolled.

2075

2076 | A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program
 2077 | under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten
 2078 | program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from
 2079 | the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good
 2080 | cause exemption under this subsection. The department ~~Office of~~
 2081 | ~~Early Learning~~ shall establish criteria specifying whether a
 2082 | good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under
 2083 | paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a
 2084 | program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship
 2085 | exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under
 2086 | paragraph (b).

2087 | (5)

2088 | (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt
 2089 | procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers
 2090 | and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2091 | Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance
 2092 | payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment
 2093 | in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the
 2094 | reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the
 2095 | uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The
 2096 | procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds
 2097 | by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning
 2098 | coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private
 2099 | prekindergarten providers and public schools.

2100 | (6)

2101 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district
 2102 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each
 2103 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
 2104 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
 2105 month's certified student attendance.

2106 2. The parent must submit the verification of the
 2107 student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or
 2108 public school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of~~
 2109 ~~Early Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the
 2110 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in
 2111 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to
 2112 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in
 2113 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the
 2114 program be made to the provider or school:

2115 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
 2116 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

2117 I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,
 2118 ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2119 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I
 2120 continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver
 2121 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid
 2122 to the provider or school for my child.

2123 ...(Signature of Parent)...

2124 ...(Date)...

2125 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school

2126 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each
2127 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning
2128 coalition, and each public school must permit the school
2129 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal
2130 business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
2131 adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school
2132 districts to review the original signed forms against the
2133 certified student attendance. The review procedures shall
2134 provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,
2135 including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early
2136 learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the
2137 review procedures.

2138 (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,
2139 for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the
2140 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance
2141 policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private
2142 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance
2143 policy must include at least the following provisions:

2144 1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata
2145 basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

2146 2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on
2147 behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a
2148 public school may be for hours a student is absent.

2149 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school may
2150 not receive payment for absences that occur before a student's

2151 first day of attendance or after a student's last day of
2152 attendance.

2153
2154 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding
2155 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten
2156 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its
2157 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

2158 (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require
2159 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum
2160 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
2161 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative
2162 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent
2163 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic
2164 submission of forms, including those required for child
2165 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and
2166 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school
2167 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system
2168 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early
2169 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In
2170 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate
2171 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative
2172 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend
2173 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to
2174 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under
2175 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition

2176 | under this subsection may be used only for administering the
 2177 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used
 2178 | for the school readiness program or other programs.

2179 | Section 45. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida
 2180 | Statutes, is amended to read:

2181 | 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary
 2182 | Prekindergarten Education Program.—

2183 | (1) (a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary
 2184 | Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning
 2185 | coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a
 2186 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are
 2187 | confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
 2188 | of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such
 2189 | records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
 2190 | observations, and personal identifying information of an
 2191 | enrolled child and his or her parent.

2192 | (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child
 2193 | enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held
 2194 | by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early~~
 2195 | ~~Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2196 | provider before, on, or after the effective date of this
 2197 | exemption.

2198 | Section 46. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2199 | to read:

2200 | 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;

2201 | accountability requirements.—

2202 | (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard

2203 | statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary

2204 | Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized

2205 | attachments by provider type. The department shall publish a

2206 | copy of the standard statewide provider contract on its website.

2207 | The standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a

2208 | minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for

2209 | cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a

2210 | provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the

2211 | health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide

2212 | provider contract shall also include appropriate due process

2213 | procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,

2214 | the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any

2215 | provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or

2216 | prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~

2217 | ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~

2218 | ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

2219 | (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:

2220 | (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials

2221 | under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

2222 | (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early

2223 | mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and

2224 | 1002.59.

2225 | (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers

2226 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the
2227 minimum performance metric as required by s. 1002.68 of the free
2228 and low-cost, high-quality professional development
2229 opportunities developed or supported by the department.

2230 (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2231 Education Program by the early learning coalitions and school
2232 districts, including, but not limited to, procedures for:

2233 1. Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
2234 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2235 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children
2236 by public schools and private providers that meet specified
2237 requirements.

2238 2. Providing parents with profiles of private
2239 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

2240 3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and
2241 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,
2242 1002.61, and 1002.63.

2243 4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten
2244 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61
2245 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility
2246 whenever possible.

2247 5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten
2248 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools
2249 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or
2250 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2251 6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public
2252 schools under s. 1002.71.

2253 7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and
2254 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

2255 8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the
2256 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2257 9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private
2258 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with
2259 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.
2260 1002.71.

2261 (3) The department shall administer the accountability
2262 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2263 at the state level.

2264 (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the
2265 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2266 Program by the early learning coalitions and school districts
2267 for:

2268 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten
2269 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2270 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public
2271 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.
2272 1002.68.

2273 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public
2274 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the
2275 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time

2276 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a
 2277 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
 2278 violation, as defined by rule by the Child Care Services Program
 2279 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
 2280 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the
 2281 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2282 Education Program.

2283 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
 2284 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2285 under s. 1002.66.

2286 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers
 2287 under s. 1002.66.

2288 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~
 2289 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~
 2290 ~~1002.69.~~

2291 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~
 2292 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
 2293 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
 2294 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~
 2295 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
 2296 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
 2297 ~~department.~~

2298 (f) (e) Approving Approval of specialized instructional
 2299 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2300 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~

2301 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2302 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or
 2303 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.
 2304 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.69(7)~~.

2305 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the
 2306 distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.
 2307 1002.71.

2308 (6)~~(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the department may not
 2309 impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or
 2310 public school that does not deliver the Voluntary
 2311 Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under
 2312 this part.

2313 Section 47. Sections 1002.75 and 1002.77, Florida
 2314 Statutes, are repealed.

2315 Section 48. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2316 to read:

2317 1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education
 2318 ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)
 2319 and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring
 2320 duties upon the department ~~office~~.

2321 Section 49. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2322 to read:

2323 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of
 2324 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2325 (1) "At-risk child" means:

2326 (a) A child from a family under investigation by the
 2327 Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's
 2328 office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2329 (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the
 2330 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider
 2331 and who is from a family that is actively participating and
 2332 complying in department-prescribed activities, including
 2333 education, health services, or work.

2334 (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the
 2335 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service
 2336 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2337 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or
 2338 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after
 2339 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and
 2340 Families or its contracted provider.

2341 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a
 2342 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a
 2343 certified domestic violence center.

2344 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered
 2345 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families
 2346 certified homeless shelter.

2347 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care
 2348 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,
 2349 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,
 2350 including reasonable travel time.

2351 (3)~~(4)~~ "Direct enhancement services" means services for
 2352 families and children that are in addition to payments for the
 2353 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct
 2354 enhancement services for families and children may include
 2355 supports for providers, parent training and involvement
 2356 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique
 2357 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement
 2358 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be
 2359 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
 2360 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2361 (4)~~(5)~~ "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary
 2362 or permanent, of a child from participation in the school
 2363 readiness program. Removal of a child from the school readiness
 2364 program may be based on the following events: a reduction in
 2365 available school readiness program funding, participant's
 2366 failure to meet eligibility or program participation
 2367 requirements, fraud, or a change in local service priorities.

2368 (5)~~(6)~~ "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived
 2369 from work, professional service, or self-employment. The term
 2370 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash
 2371 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

2372 (6)~~(7)~~ "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family
 2373 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty
 2374 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family
 2375 as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural

2376 worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer
2377 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according
2378 to weather conditions and market stability.

2379 (7)~~(8)~~ "Family income" means the combined gross income,
2380 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by
2381 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older
2382 who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.
2383 The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled
2384 high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or
2385 a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22
2386 years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high
2387 school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special
2388 diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also
2389 does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing
2390 assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the
2391 associated utilities expenses.

2392 (8)~~(9)~~ "Family or household members" means spouses, former
2393 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are
2394 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have
2395 been married, and other persons who are currently residing
2396 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

2397 (9)~~(10)~~ "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not
2398 more than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education
2399 services within a 24-hour period.

2400 (10)~~(11)~~ "Market rate" means the price that a child care

2401 or early childhood education provider charges for full-time or
 2402 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early
 2403 childhood education services.

2404 ~~(12)~~ "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the
 2405 Department of Education.

2406 ~~(11)~~~~(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child
 2407 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour
 2408 period.

2409 ~~(12)~~~~(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the
 2410 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency
 2411 distribution ~~average~~ of the market rate by program care level
 2412 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which
 2413 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

2414 ~~(13)~~~~(14)~~ "Single point of entry" means an integrated
 2415 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her
 2416 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary
 2417 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations
 2418 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or
 2419 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a
 2420 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for
 2421 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2422 ~~(14)~~~~(15)~~ "Unearned income" means income other than earned
 2423 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- 2424 (a) Documented alimony and child support received.
- 2425 (b) Social security benefits.

- 2426 (c) Supplemental security income benefits.
- 2427 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.
- 2428 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation
- 2429 benefits.
- 2430 (f) Veterans' benefits.
- 2431 (g) Retirement benefits.
- 2432 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.

2433 (15)~~(16)~~ "Working family" means:

2434 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom
 2435 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2436 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;

2437 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom
 2438 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2439 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours
 2440 per week; or

2441 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with
 2442 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to
 2443 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician
 2444 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is
 2445 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at
 2446 least 20 hours per week.

2447 Section 50. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2448 to read:

2449 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;
 2450 powers and duties.—

2451 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and
 2452 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts
 2453 98 and 99, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~
 2454 is designated as the lead agency and must comply with lead
 2455 agency responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department
 2456 ~~office~~ may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of,
 2457 and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss.
 2458 411.223 and 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for
 2459 implementation of the school readiness program. Section
 2460 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply to the school readiness program.

2461 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2462 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered
 2463 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

2464 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to
 2465 choose from a variety of child care categories, including
 2466 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to
 2467 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development
 2468 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health
 2469 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and
 2470 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or
 2471 excluded in any of these categories.

2472 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and
 2473 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual
 2474 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,
 2475 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of

2476 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,
2477 including:

2478 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for
2479 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides
2480 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,
2481 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.
2482 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

2483 a. Direct services to children.
2484 b. Administrative costs.
2485 c. Quality activities.
2486 d. Nondirect services.

2487 2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to
2488 perform data matches on children participating in the school
2489 readiness program and their families in order to verify the
2490 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2491 (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of
2492 the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate.

2493 (e) Review each early learning coalition's school
2494 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval
2495 of the plan and any amendments submitted.

2496 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to
2497 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of
2498 this effort, the department ~~office~~:

2499 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that
2500 address the state's school readiness program, including:

2501 a. Statewide data information program requirements that
 2502 include:
 2503 (I) Eligibility requirements.
 2504 (II) Financial reports.
 2505 (III) Program accountability measures.
 2506 (IV) Child progress reports.
 2507 b. Child care resource and referral services.
 2508 c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.
 2509 2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on
 2510 additional support services to complement the school readiness
 2511 program, including:
 2512 a. Rating and improvement systems.
 2513 b. Warm-Line services.
 2514 c. Anti-fraud plans.
 2515 d. School readiness program standards.
 2516 e. Child screening and assessments.
 2517 f. Training and support for parental involvement in
 2518 children's early education.
 2519 g. Family literacy activities and services.
 2520 (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning
 2521 coalitions.
 2522 (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,
 2523 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the
 2524 Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to
 2525 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety

2526 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child
2527 care training and credentialing.

2528 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local
2529 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of
2530 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of
2531 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify
2532 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist
2533 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a
2534 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for
2535 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety
2536 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the
2537 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A
2538 child development program that is accredited by a national
2539 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is
2540 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted
2541 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2542 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the Develop
2543 and adopt standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the
2544 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children
2545 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for
2546 children from birth to 5 years of age in the school readiness
2547 program must be aligned with the performance standards adopted
2548 for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2549 and must address the following domains:

2550 1. Approaches to learning.

- 2551 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 2552 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 2553 4. Physical development.
- 2554 5. Self-regulation.
- 2555 (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are
- 2556 valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at
- 2557 least three times a year. The assessments must:
- 2558 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~riterion-~~
- 2559 ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across
- 2560 the core domains of early childhood development and that can be
- 2561 used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.
- 2562 2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted
- 2563 pursuant to paragraph (j).
- 2564 3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children
- 2565 with disabilities and English language learners and be
- 2566 administered by qualified individuals, consistent with the
- 2567 developer's instructions.
- 2568 4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by
- 2569 the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary
- 2570 Prekindergarten Education Program.
- 2571 5. Provide data in a format for use in the single
- 2572 statewide information system to meet the requirements of
- 2573 paragraph (q) ~~(p)~~.
- 2574 (1) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the
- 2575 performance standards for the school readiness program and

2576 | establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's
2577 | curriculum that meets the performance standards.

2578 | (m) Provide technical support to an early learning
2579 | coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard
2580 | statewide provider contract to be used with each school
2581 | readiness program provider, with standardized attachments by
2582 | provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the
2583 | standard statewide provider contract on its website. The
2584 | standard statewide contract shall include, at a minimum,
2585 | contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the Child
2586 | Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R. parts 98
2587 | and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable; program
2588 | assessment requirements; and provisions for provider probation,
2589 | termination for cause, and emergency termination for those
2590 | actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate and
2591 | serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the
2592 | children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also
2593 | include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency
2594 | of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to
2595 | offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that
2596 | is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and
2597 | unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also
2598 | include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established
2599 | under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the
2600 | coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting

2601 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)
2602 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to
2603 paragraph (n).

2604 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness
2605 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child
2606 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,
2607 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and
2608 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The
2609 implementation of the program assessment must ~~also~~ include the
2610 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of
2611 Education:

2612 1. Quality measures, including a minimum threshold for
2613 contracting purposes and program improvement through an
2614 improvement plan.

2615 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of
2616 program assessment, and exemptions.

2617 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential
2618 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the
2619 department ~~office~~ under paragraph (n). The differential payment
2620 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and
2621 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5
2622 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to
2623 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide
2624 information system in the domains of language and executive
2625 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to

2626 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum threshold for
 2627 contracting purposes are ineligible for such payment.

2628 (p) No later than July 1, 2021, develop and adopt
 2629 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to
 2630 make available contracted slots to serve children at the
 2631 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children
 2632 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty
 2633 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted
 2634 slot program may also be used increase the availability of child
 2635 care capacity based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j).

2636 (q)~~(p)~~ Establish a single statewide information system
 2637 that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the
 2638 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,
 2639 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining
 2640 eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and
 2641 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early
 2642 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.
 2643 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

2644 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her
 2645 child as the child moves among programs within the state.

2646 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level
 2647 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality
 2648 improvement and investment decisions.

2649 (r)~~(q)~~ Provide technical support to coalitions to
 2650 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures

2651 adopted by rule by the state board for coalitions to use when
 2652 monitoring the compliance of school readiness program providers
 2653 with the terms of the standard statewide provider contract.

2654 (s)~~(r)~~ Monitor and evaluate the performance of each early
 2655 learning coalition in administering the school readiness
 2656 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program
 2657 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program
 2658 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2659 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must
 2660 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's
 2661 finances, management, operations, and programs.

2662 (t)~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal
 2663 Education Programs within the Department of Education to
 2664 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to
 2665 the populations served by the bureau.

2666 (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to
 2667 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and
 2668 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,
 2669 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
 2670 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
 2671 special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2672 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day
 2673 care homes of the availability of this service through the child
 2674 care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2675 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line

2676 to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning
2677 coalition service area.

2678 (v)~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the
2679 supply and improve the quality of child care services for
2680 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who
2681 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in
2682 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant
2683 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

2684 (w)~~(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training
2685 requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child
2686 development standards, health and safety requirements, and
2687 social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include
2688 positive behavior intervention and support models, including the
2689 integration of early learning professional development pathways
2690 established in s. 1002.995.

2691 (x)~~(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness
2692 plans for school readiness program providers.

2693 (y)~~(x)~~ Establish group sizes.

2694 (z)~~(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not
2695 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.
2696 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program
2697 providers.

2698 (aa)~~(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including
2699 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance
2700 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2701 (3) If the department ~~office~~ determines during the review
2702 of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring and
2703 performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an
2704 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its
2705 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and
2706 outcome measures adopted by the department ~~office~~, or has not
2707 effectively administered the school readiness program or
2708 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the department
2709 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer
2710 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a
2711 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and
2712 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
2713 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or
2714 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is
2715 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board
2716 ~~office~~.

2717 (4) The department shall adopt procedures for merging
2718 early learning coalitions, including procedures for the
2719 consolidation of merging coalitions that minimizes duplication
2720 of programs and services due to the merger, and for the early
2721 termination of the terms of the coalition members which are
2722 necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2723 (5) ~~(4)~~ The department ~~office~~ may request the Governor to
2724 apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head
2725 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness

2726 program.

2727 (6)~~(5)~~ By January 1 of each year, the department ~~office~~
 2728 shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities
 2729 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary
 2730 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the
 2731 following:

2732 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout
 2733 the state, including the school readiness program and the
 2734 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2735 1. The total and average number of children served in the
 2736 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility
 2737 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of
 2738 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2739 Program.

2740 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,
 2741 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of
 2742 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,
 2743 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2744 3. A description of the department's ~~office's~~ and each
 2745 coalition's expenditures by fund source for the quality and
 2746 enhancement activities described in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
 2747 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2748 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to
 2749 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2750 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early

2751 learning programs.

2752 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and
2753 the reason for disenrollment.

2754 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2755 8. The number of school readiness program providers who
2756 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph
2757 (2) (n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum
2758 threshold for contracting established under paragraph (2) (n);
2759 and the number of providers that have an active improvement plan
2760 based on the results of the program assessment under paragraph
2761 (2) (n).

2762 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the
2763 reasons for revocation.

2764 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the
2765 single statewide information system established in subsection
2766 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child
2767 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2768 (7) (a) - (6) (a) Parental choice of child care providers,
2769 including private and faith-based providers, shall be
2770 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with
2771 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2772 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment
2773 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45
2774 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

2775 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with

2776 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment
 2777 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,
 2778 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment
 2779 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the
 2780 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must
 2781 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized
 2782 representative of the provider.

2783 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash
 2784 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for
 2785 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or
 2786 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of
 2787 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2788 (8)~~(7)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does
 2789 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,
 2790 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional
 2791 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the
 2792 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

2793 Section 51. Subsections (1), (2), and (3), paragraph (m)
 2794 of subsection (4), and subsections (5), (11), and (13) of
 2795 section 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

2796 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2797 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions
 2798 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services
 2799 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67
 2800 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for

2801 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program
 2802 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2803 (2) Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at
 2804 least 13 ~~15~~ members but not more than 15 ~~30~~ members.

2805 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
 2806 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the
 2807 ~~same~~ qualifications of a ~~as~~ private sector business member
 2808 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (5).

2809 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the
 2810 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
 2811 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
 2812 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
 2813 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
 2814 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of
 2815 such members may serve as a voting member:

2816 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2817 (5) ~~Including the~~ Members appointed by the Governor under
 2818 subsection (3), ~~more than one third of the members of each early~~
 2819 ~~learning coalition~~ must be private sector business members,
 2820 either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of
 2821 whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial
 2822 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
 2823 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this
 2824 chapter or the school readiness program. ~~To meet this~~
 2825 ~~requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional~~

2826 ~~members.~~ The department office shall establish criteria for
2827 appointing private sector business members. These criteria must
2828 include standards for determining whether a member or relative
2829 has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery
2830 of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school
2831 readiness program.

2832 (11) Each early learning coalition shall establish terms
2833 for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must be
2834 staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4
2835 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~
2836 ~~in conjunction with their membership on the Early Learning~~
2837 ~~Advisory Council pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may
2838 serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs
2839 in an appointed position, the coalition must advertise the
2840 vacancy.

2841 (13) Each early learning coalition shall use a coordinated
2842 professional development system that supports the achievement
2843 and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program
2844 teachers in helping children attain the performance standards
2845 adopted by the department office.

2846 Section 52. Subsections (1), (2), (4), (7), (8), (15),
2847 (16), (17), (18), and (20) of that section are amended to read:

2848 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
2849 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2850 (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program

2851 of school readiness program services in accordance with this
2852 part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which
2853 enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of
2854 children to achieve the performance standards.

2855 (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible
2856 children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program
2857 in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education
2858 ~~office~~.

2859 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the
2860 department ~~office~~ pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.
2861 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical
2862 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and
2863 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,
2864 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care
2865 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve
2866 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2867 (7) Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87 and
2868 provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child eligibility
2869 must be redetermined annually. A coalition must document the
2870 reason a child is no longer eligible for the school readiness
2871 program according to the standard codes prescribed by the
2872 department ~~office~~.

2873 (8) Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides for
2874 a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families receiving
2875 school readiness program services. ~~Providers are required to~~

2876 ~~collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on a case-by-~~
2877 ~~case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child or
2878 temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's
2879 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose
2880 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits
2881 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in
2882 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency
2883 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the
2884 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in
2885 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may
2886 not transfer school readiness program services to another school
2887 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted
2888 documentation from the current school readiness program provider
2889 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has
2890 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2891 (15) Monitor school readiness program providers in
2892 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental
2893 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.
2894 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring
2895 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to
2896 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial
2897 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local
2898 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers
2899 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored
2900 biennially.

2901 (16) Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all
 2902 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The
 2903 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
 2904 ~~average~~ market rate, include the projected number of children to
 2905 be served, and be submitted for approval by the department
 2906 ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed at
 2907 not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day
 2908 care home.

2909 (17) Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the
 2910 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and
 2911 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school
 2912 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2913 Program services and submit the plan to the department ~~office~~
 2914 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

2915 (18) By October 1 of each year, submit an annual report to
 2916 the department ~~office~~. The report shall conform to the format
 2917 adopted by the department ~~office~~ and must include:

2918 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,
 2919 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~
 2920 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds~~, and other local revenues
 2921 available to the coalition.

2922 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including
 2923 total expenditures for administrative activities, quality
 2924 activities, nondirect services, and direct services for
 2925 children.

2926 (c) The total number of coalition staff and the related
 2927 expenditures for salaries and benefits. For any subcontracts,
 2928 the total number of contracted staff and the related
 2929 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

2930 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness
 2931 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility
 2932 priority category, reported as the number of children served
 2933 during the month, the average participation throughout the
 2934 month, and the number of children served during the month.

2935 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the
 2936 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

2937 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

2938 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by
 2939 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program
 2940 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or
 2941 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

2942 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

2943 (i) The total number of children served in each provider
 2944 facility.

2945 (20) (a) To increase transparency and accountability,
 2946 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting
 2947 with one or more of the following persons or business entities
 2948 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned
 2949 by the following persons:

2950 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.

2951 1002.83 (4) ;
 2952 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient
 2953 entity;
 2954 3. A coalition employee; or
 2955 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1) (c), of any
 2956 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~
 2957 ~~employee of the coalition.~~
 2958 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the
 2959 approval of the department ~~office~~. Such contracts, as well as
 2960 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the
 2961 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the
 2962 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of
 2963 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who
 2964 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit
 2965 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under
 2966 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~
 2967 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~
 2968 ~~112.3143(1) (c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~
 2969 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the
 2970 department ~~office~~ but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of
 2971 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be
 2972 reported to the department ~~office~~ within 30 days after approval.
 2973 If a contract cannot be approved by the department ~~office~~, a
 2974 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be
 2975 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to

2976 the disapproved contract.

2977 Section 53. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended
2978 to read:

2979 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

2980 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules prescribing
2981 the standardized format and required content of school readiness
2982 program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified
2983 entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in
2984 this part.

2985 (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a
2986 school readiness program plan to the department ~~office~~ before
2987 the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its
2988 school readiness program plan until it receives approval from
2989 the department ~~office~~. A coalition may not implement any
2990 revision to its school readiness program plan until the
2991 coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from
2992 the department ~~office~~. If the department ~~office~~ rejects a plan
2993 or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its
2994 previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not
2995 limited to:

2996 (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership
2997 and business organization, and the coalition's articles of
2998 incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a
2999 corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation
3000 or other business entity, the plan must include the contract

3001 with a fiscal agent.

3002 (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care
 3003 level.

3004 (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the
 3005 requirements of this part, including:

3006 1. Single point of entry.

3007 2. Uniform waiting list.

3008 3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local
 3009 eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.

3010 4. Parent access and choice.

3011 5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver
 3012 or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(8).

3013 6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as
 3014 applicable.

3015 7. Payment rate schedule.

3016 8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the
 3017 results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

3018 (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality
 3019 activities and services, including, but not limited to:

3020 1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.

3021 2. Infant and toddler early learning.

3022 3. Inclusive early learning programs.

3023 4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching
 3024 practices and increase child outcomes.

3025 (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures

3026 | for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level
 3027 | of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all
 3028 | estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a
 3029 | listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted
 3030 | subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or
 3031 | hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan
 3032 | outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed
 3033 | capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

3034 | (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the
 3035 | department ~~office~~, of all revenues and expenditures during the
 3036 | previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be
 3037 | identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~
 3038 | categories: state and federal funds and, local matching funds,
 3039 | ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

3040 | (g) Updated policies and procedures, including those
 3041 | governing procurement, maintenance of tangible personal
 3042 | property, maintenance of records, information technology
 3043 | security, and disbursement controls.

3044 | (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school
 3045 | readiness program providers, including in response to a parental
 3046 | complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.
 3047 | 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool
 3048 | adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to be
 3049 | high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial
 3050 | findings of violations of law shall be monitored more

3051 frequently.

3052 (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and
3053 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness
3054 program plan from the local community.

3055 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or
3056 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider
3057 capacity using available community data.

3058 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as
3059 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by
3060 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on
3061 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

3062 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the
3063 standardized format and required content of school readiness
3064 program plans on its website.

3065 (5) The department ~~office~~ shall collect and report data on
3066 coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall
3067 include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress
3068 towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the
3069 percentage of children served by the program as compared to the
3070 number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of
3071 children served compared to total number of children under the
3072 age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level,
3073 provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance
3074 and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and
3075 kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary

3076 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness
3077 program upon entry into kindergarten. The department ~~office~~
3078 shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness
3079 program providers before finalizing the format and data to be
3080 used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,
3081 and results of the report must be included in the annual report
3082 under s. 1002.82.

3083 Section 54. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),
3084 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section
3085 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is
3086 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

3087 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;
3088 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

3089 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness
3090 program, a school readiness program provider must:

3091 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a
3092 family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a
3093 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a
3094 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.
3095 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from
3096 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school
3097 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development
3098 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and
3099 operates on a military installation that is certified by the
3100 United States Department of Defense, ~~or~~ an informal child care

3101 provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and
3102 Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States
3103 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.
3104 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license
3105 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program
3106 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

3107 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-
3108 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child
3109 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant
3110 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to
3111 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an
3112 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with
3113 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to
3114 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and
3115 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

3116 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and
3117 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate
3118 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness
3119 program.

3120 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.
3121 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as
3122 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

3123 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care
3124 home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the
3125 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this

3126 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this
3127 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the
3128 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist
3129 adopted by the department ~~office~~ prominently on its premises in
3130 plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit
3131 the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

3132 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a
3133 national accrediting body and operates on a military
3134 installation that is certified by the United States Department
3135 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual
3136 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense
3137 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3138 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.
3139 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of
3140 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the
3141 department ~~office~~.

3142 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the
3143 department ~~office~~ that meets the child development standards.

3144 (m) For a provider that is not an informal provider,
3145 maintain general liability insurance and provide the coalition
3146 with written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
3147 including coverage for transportation of children if school
3148 readiness program children are transported by the provider. A
3149 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that
3150 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a

3151 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
3152 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
3153 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder
3154 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the
3155 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written
3156 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general
3157 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in
3158 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider
3159 contract with the coalition.

3160 (n) For a provider that is an informal provider, comply
3161 with the provisions of paragraph (m) or maintain homeowner's
3162 liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If an
3163 informal provider chooses to maintain a homeowner's policy, the
3164 provider must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy
3165 that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence
3166 and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The
3167 department ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as
3168 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a
3169 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An
3170 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of
3171 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or
3172 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by
3173 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the
3174 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.

3175 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is

3176 a state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.
3177 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional
3178 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to
3179 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall
3180 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.
3181 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program
3182 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates
3183 on a military installation that is certified by the United
3184 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate
3185 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the
3186 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3187 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract
3188 adopted by the department office.

3189 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has
3190 been granted under s. 1002.84(8).

3191 (3) The department office and the coalitions may not:

3192 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or
3193 early childhood education provider that does not deliver
3194 services under the school readiness program or receive state or
3195 federal funds under this part;

3196 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program
3197 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or
3198 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or
3199 part V of this chapter; or

3200 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or

3201 postassessment.

3202 Section 55. Subsections (3) through (7) of section
 3203 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)
 3204 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present
 3205 subsections (3), and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3206 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3207 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~
 3208 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~
 3209 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3210 (2)(3) All instructions to early learning coalitions for
 3211 administering this section shall emanate from the department
 3212 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

3213 (5)(6) Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for
 3214 the efficient and effective administration of the school
 3215 readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being
 3216 direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5
 3217 percent of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~
 3218 may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent
 3219 of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be
 3220 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative
 3221 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3222 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.
 3223 98.52, which shall include monitoring providers using the
 3224 standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve
 3225 compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant

3226 to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted
3227 under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3228 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as
3229 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.51, which shall be limited to the
3230 following:

3231 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and
3232 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related
3233 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents
3234 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified
3235 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

3236 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to
3237 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist
3238 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program
3239 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care
3240 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate
3241 curricula and related classroom resources that support
3242 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued
3243 professional development and training. Any grants awarded
3244 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and
3245 287.058.

3246 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial
3247 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and
3248 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child
3249 development research and best practices, developmentally
3250 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child

3251 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and
 3252 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the
 3253 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,
 3254 prevention, and reporting.

3255 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
 3256 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
 3257 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
 3258 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for
 3259 infant and toddler care.

3260 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and
 3261 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as
 3262 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3263 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
 3264 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
 3265 to school readiness program children.

3266 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office
 3267 of Management and Budget instructions are those services not
 3268 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are
 3269 required to administer the school readiness program. Such
 3270 services include, but are not limited to:

- 3271 1. Assisting families to complete the required application
 3272 and eligibility documentation.
- 3273 2. Determining child and family eligibility.
- 3274 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
- 3275 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.

3276 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care
3277 information system.

3278
3279 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does
3280 not include payments to school readiness program providers for
3281 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.
3282 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or
3283 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3284 Section 56. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection
3285 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,
3286 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3287 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness
3288 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3289 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for
3290 the adoption of a market rate schedule. The schedule must
3291 include, at a minimum, county-by-county rates:

3292 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum
3293 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality
3294 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting
3295 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
3296 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3297 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not
3298 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3299 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3300 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not

3301 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality
 3302 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its
 3303 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
 3304 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.
 3305 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure
 3306 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from
 3307 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal
 3308 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home
 3309 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed
 3310 or registered under s. 402.313.

3311 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an
 3312 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.
 3313 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
 3314 ~~average~~ market rate and ~~include~~ the projected number of
 3315 children to be served by each county ~~and~~ be submitted for
 3316 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care
 3317 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of
 3318 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3319 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more
 3320 qualified entities to administer this section and provide
 3321 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3322 (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing
 3323 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market
 3324 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by
 3325 program care level and provider type in a predetermined

3326 geographic market, and the publication of the market rate
 3327 schedule.

3328 Section 57. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3329 to read:

3330 1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;
 3331 penalties.—

3332 (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an
 3333 intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a
 3334 person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or
 3335 misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that
 3336 person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the
 3337 commission of such an act. The term includes any act that
 3338 constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3339 (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,
 3340 the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning
 3341 coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness
 3342 program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
 3343 determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own
 3344 inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~
 3345 has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has
 3346 engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall
 3347 investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred
 3348 due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the
 3349 department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic
 3350 benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who

3351 may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the
3352 disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits
3353 authorizations to recipients.

3354 (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the
3355 department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the
3356 investigation to the Department of Financial Services for
3357 criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable
3358 coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the
3359 department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of
3360 Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3361 (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a
3362 provider from participation in the school readiness program or
3363 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has
3364 reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed
3365 fraud. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt by rule appropriate due
3366 process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply
3367 in suspending or terminating any provider, including the
3368 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider
3369 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation
3370 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,
3371 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent
3372 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3373 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary
3374 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,
3375 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,

3376 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of
3377 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or
3378 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been
3379 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3380 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3381 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall
3382 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that
3383 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition
3384 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,
3385 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider
3386 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3387 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3388 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3389 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise
3390 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation
3391 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate
3392 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,
3393 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems
3394 appropriate.

3395 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a
3396 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten
3397 Education Program provider who is on the United States
3398 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In
3399 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that
3400 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the

3401 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified
 3402 List.

3403 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-
 3404 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of
 3405 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and
 3406 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary
 3407 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan
 3408 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~
 3409 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,
 3410 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud
 3411 plan must include, at a minimum:

3412 (a) A written description or chart outlining the
 3413 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are
 3414 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible
 3415 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3416 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting
 3417 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3418 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the
 3419 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to
 3420 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3421 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for
 3422 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent
 3423 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3424 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the
 3425 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department

3426 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness
3427 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a
3428 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes
3429 has committed fraud.

3430 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in
3431 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.
3432 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3433 Section 58. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraph (a) of
3434 subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida Statutes, are amended
3435 to read:

3436 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
3437 referral.—

3438 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the
3439 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care
3440 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides
3441 referrals to families for child care and information on
3442 available community resources. Preference shall be given to
3443 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and
3444 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply
3445 with the requirements to offer the resource information
3446 component or does not want to offer that service, the early
3447 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency
3448 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement
3449 requirements of s. 1002.84(12).

3450 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency

3451 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or
3452 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3453 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral
3454 services offered through child care resource and referral
3455 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at
3456 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents
3457 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff
3458 training requirements.

3459 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall
3460 provide the following services:

3461 (a) Identification of existing public and private child
3462 care and early childhood education services, including child
3463 care services by public and private employers, and the
3464 development of a resource file of those services through the
3465 single statewide information system developed by the department
3466 ~~office~~ under s. 1002.82(2)(q) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services
3467 may include family day care, public and private child care
3468 programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head
3469 Start, the school readiness program, special education programs
3470 for prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for
3471 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-
3472 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, vacation
3473 care programs, parent education, the temporary cash assistance
3474 program, and related family support services. The resource file
3475 shall include, but not be limited to:

- 3476 1. Type of program.
- 3477 2. Hours of service.
- 3478 3. Ages of children served.
- 3479 4. Number of children served.
- 3480 5. Program information.
- 3481 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 3482 7. Availability of transportation.

3483 Section 59. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida
 3484 Statutes, is amended to read:

3485 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

3486 (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning
 3487 coalition to establish school readiness program transportation
 3488 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are
 3489 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to
 3490 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the
 3491 provision of transportation services as required by this
 3492 section.

3493 Section 60. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is
 3494 repealed.

3495 Section 61. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3496 to read:

3497 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
 3498 scholarship program.—

3499 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the
 3500 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps

3501 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational
3502 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood
3503 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care
3504 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and
3505 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child
3506 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the
3507 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood
3508 education.

3509 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3510 as necessary to administer this section.

3511 Section 62. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,
3512 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3513 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.-

3514 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department
3515 ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants
3516 to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs
3517 through Early Head Start program federal grants. The
3518 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds
3519 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been
3520 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3521 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for
3522 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the
3523 administration of the collaboration grants program under this
3524 section.

3525 Section 63. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection

3526 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 3527 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness
 3528 program.—

3529 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the
 3530 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an
 3531 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are
 3532 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
 3533 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records
 3534 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
 3535 observations, and personal identifying information.

3536 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3537 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early
 3538 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of
 3539 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department
 3540 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness
 3541 program.

3542
 3543 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school
 3544 readiness program records in order to carry out their official
 3545 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit
 3546 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school
 3547 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than
 3548 those authorized to receive the records.

3549 Section 64. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,
 3550 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3551 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards
 3552 and career pathways.—

3553 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3554 (a) Develop early learning professional development
 3555 training and course standards to be utilized for school
 3556 readiness program providers.

3557 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning
 3558 career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications
 3559 that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized
 3560 professional development that:

3561 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.

3562 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core
 3563 competencies.

3564 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based
 3565 stackable credentials and certifications.

3566 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten
 3567 readiness and early grade success.

3568 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
 3569 to administer this section.

3570 Section 65. Subsection (3) of section 1003.575, Florida
 3571 Statutes, is amended to read:

3572 1003.575 Assistive technology devices; findings;
 3573 interagency agreements.—Accessibility, utilization, and
 3574 coordination of appropriate assistive technology devices and
 3575 services are essential as a young person with disabilities moves

3576 from early intervention to preschool, from preschool to school,
3577 from one school to another, from school to employment or
3578 independent living, and from school to home and community. If an
3579 individual education plan team makes a recommendation in
3580 accordance with State Board of Education rule for a student with
3581 a disability, as defined in s. 1003.01(3), to receive an
3582 assistive technology assessment, that assessment must be
3583 completed within 60 school days after the team's recommendation.
3584 To ensure that an assistive technology device issued to a young
3585 person as part of his or her individualized family support plan,
3586 individual support plan, individualized plan for employment, or
3587 individual education plan remains with the individual through
3588 such transitions, the following agencies shall enter into
3589 interagency agreements, as appropriate, to ensure the
3590 transaction of assistive technology devices:

3591 (3) The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3592 administered by the Department of Education ~~and the Office of~~
3593 ~~Early Learning.~~

3594
3595 Interagency agreements entered into pursuant to this section
3596 shall provide a framework for ensuring that young persons with
3597 disabilities and their families, educators, and employers are
3598 informed about the utilization and coordination of assistive
3599 technology devices and services that may assist in meeting
3600 transition needs, and shall establish a mechanism by which a

3601 young person or his or her parent may request that an assistive
3602 technology device remain with the young person as he or she
3603 moves through the continuum from home to school to postschool.

3604 Section 66. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
3605 to read:

3606 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of
3607 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;
3608 Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

3609 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate
3610 articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20
3611 ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening
3612 relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,
3613 between public and private organizations, and between the
3614 education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The
3615 purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these
3616 relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective
3617 progression and transfer of students within the education system
3618 and to allow students to proceed toward their educational
3619 objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The
3620 Legislature further intends that articulation policies and
3621 budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of
3622 the Department of Education and postsecondary educational
3623 institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts
3624 of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3625 (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the

3626 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall
 3627 collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from
 3628 statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner
 3629 of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System
 3630 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The
 3631 policies shall relate to:

3632 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one
 3633 education system and the admissions requirements of another
 3634 education system into which students typically transfer.

3635 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of
 3636 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course
 3637 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such
 3638 institutions.

3639 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education
 3640 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public
 3641 postsecondary educational institutions.

3642 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3643 (e) Articulation agreements.

3644 (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
 3645 the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish
 3646 the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make
 3647 recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and
 3648 issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data
 3649 maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established
 3650 pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education

3651 Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the
3652 Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members
3653 each representing the State University System, the Florida
3654 College System, public career and technical education, K-12
3655 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member
3656 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the
3657 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
3658 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3659 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of
3660 one education system and the admissions requirements of another
3661 education system into which students typically transfer and make
3662 recommendations for improvement.

3663 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements
3664 between and among public schools, career and technical education
3665 centers, Florida College System institutions, state
3666 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3667 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high
3668 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State
3669 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3670 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement
3671 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3672 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,
3673 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit
3674 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions
3675 participating in the statewide course numbering system and

3676 identify instances of student transfer and admissions
 3677 difficulties.

3678 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common
 3679 general education and common degree program prerequisite
 3680 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified
 3681 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3682 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide
 3683 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
 3684 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and
 3685 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,
 3686 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3687 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public
 3688 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide
 3689 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant
 3690 to s. 1006.735.

3691 Section 67. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is
 3692 created to read:

3693 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring
 3694 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 3695 Program through grade 3.—

3696 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and
 3697 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary
 3698 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide
 3699 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate
 3700 grade-level standards and to provide information on their

3701 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program
3702 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten
3703 Education Program providers and school districts to improve
3704 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning
3705 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and
3706 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,
3707 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure
3708 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress
3709 monitoring program must:

3710 (a) Assess the progress of students in the Voluntary
3711 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the
3712 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and
3713 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.
3714 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.

3715 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary
3716 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3717 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each
3718 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on
3719 each kindergarten students progress monitoring results within
3720 the first 30 days of enrollment in accordance with paragraph
3721 (2)(a). The methodology for determining a student's readiness
3722 for kindergarten shall be developed by the same independent
3723 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

3724 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
3725 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

3726 | through grade 3.

3727 | (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to
 3728 | provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.
 3729 | 1008.25(4).

3730 | (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular
 3731 | standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state
 3732 | levels.

3733 | (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and
 3734 | development of educational programs and policies.

3735 | (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a
 3736 | statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress
 3737 | monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics
 3738 | skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards
 3739 | established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, respectively. The
 3740 | coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must
 3741 | provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures
 3742 | equivalent levels of growth; be a developmentally appropriate,
 3743 | valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to capture data
 3744 | on students who may be performing below grade or developmental
 3745 | level; accurately measure the core content in the applicable
 3746 | grade level standards; document learning gains for the
 3747 | achievement of these standards; and provide teachers with
 3748 | progress monitoring supports and materials that enhance
 3749 | differentiated instruction and parent communication.
 3750 | Participation in the coordinated screening and progress

3751 monitoring program is mandatory for all students in the
3752 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and enrolled in a
3753 public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The coordinated
3754 screening and progress monitoring program shall be implemented
3755 beginning in the 2021-2022 school year for students in the
3756 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and kindergarten
3757 students, as follows:

3758 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3759 program shall be administered within the first 30 days after
3760 enrollment, midyear, and within the last 30 days of the program
3761 or school year, in accordance with the rules adopted by the
3762 State Board of Education. The state board may adopt alternate
3763 timeframes to address nontraditional school year calendars or
3764 summer programs to ensure administration of the coordinated
3765 screening and progress monitoring program is administered a
3766 minimum of 3 times within a year or program.

3767 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress
3768 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in
3769 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and
3770 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3771 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3772 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Early Grade
3773 Success Advisory Committee, for implementing the coordinated
3774 screening and progress monitoring program in consideration of
3775 the timelines required for the completion of the review of the

3776 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and the Voluntary
3777 Prekindergarten Education Program standards.

3778 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to
3779 the Early Grade Success Advisory Committee.

3780 (4) The Early Grade Success Advisory Committee, a
3781 committee as defined in s. 20.03, is created within the
3782 Department of Education to oversee the coordinated screening and
3783 progress monitoring program and, except as otherwise provided in
3784 this section, shall operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3785 (a) The committee shall be responsible for reviewing the
3786 implementation of, training for, and outcomes from the
3787 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program to provide
3788 recommendations to the department that supports grade 3 students
3789 reading at or above grade level. The committee, at a minimum,
3790 shall:

3791 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the
3792 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including
3793 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria
3794 before being published.

3795 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

3796 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and
3797 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated
3798 screening and progress monitoring program.

3799 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a
3800 provider's or school's performance metric and the grading system

3801 under s. 1002.68.

3802 5. Work with the department's contracted independent
3803 expert to review the methodology for determining a child's
3804 kindergarten readiness.

3805 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade
3806 level that a student would need to attain in order to
3807 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

3808 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of
3809 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for
3810 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3811 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department
3812 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read
3813 at or above grade level.

3814 (b) The committee shall be composed of 17 members who are
3815 residents of the state and appointed, as follows:

3816 1. Fifteen members appointed by the Commissioner of
3817 Education:

3818 a. One representative from the Department of Education.

3819 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.

3820 c. One representative of an urban school district.

3821 d. One representative of a rural school district.

3822 e. One representative of an urban early learning
3823 coalition.

3824 f. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.

3825 g. One representative of an early learning provider.

- 3826 h. One representative of a faith-based early learning
3827 provider.
- 3828 i. One representative who is a kindergarten teacher who
3829 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3830 j. One representative who is a second grade teacher with
3831 at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3832 k. One representative who is a school principal.
- 3833 1. Four representatives with subject matter expertise in
3834 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The
3835 four representatives with subject matter expertise may not be
3836 direct stakeholders within the early learning or public school
3837 systems or potential recipients of a contract resulting from the
3838 committee's recommendations.
- 3839 2. One senator who is appointed by and serves at the
3840 pleasure of the President of the Senate.
- 3841 3. One representative who is appointed by and serves at
3842 the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 3843 (5) The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair, one
3844 of whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in
3845 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments, and
3846 one of whom must be a senator or representative. Members of the
3847 committee shall serve without compensation but are entitled to
3848 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
3849 112.061.
- 3850 (6) The committee must meet at least biennially and may

3851 meet by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible,
3852 to reduce costs.

3853 (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3854 (8) The committee terminates on July 1, 2023.

3855 Section 68. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of
3856 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
3857 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of
3858 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection
3859 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection
3860 (5) of that section, to read:

3861 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
3862 support; reporting requirements.—

3863 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

3864 (b) Any Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3865 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy
3866 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and
3867 based upon the results of the administration of the final
3868 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125
3869 shall be referred to the local school district and may be
3870 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before
3871 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading
3872 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's
3873 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with
3874 s. 1011.62(9).

3875 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

3876 (b) The district school board may only exempt students
3877 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c)
3878 ~~(5)(b)~~, for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4
3879 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading
3880 instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic
3881 information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of
3882 each student so promoted. The school district shall assist
3883 schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit,
3884 systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and
3885 intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause
3886 exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving
3887 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause
3888 exemptions are limited to the following:

3889 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less
3890 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other
3891 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a
3892 school in the United States.

3893 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education
3894 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment
3895 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of
3896 s. 1008.212.

3897 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of
3898 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English
3899 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of
3900 Education.

3901 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio
 3902 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the
 3903 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

3904 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,
 3905 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an
 3906 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects
 3907 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading
 3908 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still
 3909 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in
 3910 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

3911 6. Students who have received intensive reading
 3912 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a
 3913 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in
 3914 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2
 3915 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

3916 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE
 3917 STUDENTS.—

3918 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must
 3919 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the
 3920 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student
 3921 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must
 3922 include:

3923 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory
 3924 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
 3925 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by

3926 | the school district.

3927 | 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading
3928 | camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention
3929 | strategies under subparagraph 1.

3930 | 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading
3931 | instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention
3932 | strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

3933 | a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social
3934 | studies within the 90-minute block.

3935 | b. Small group instruction.

3936 | c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

3937 | d. More frequent progress monitoring.

3938 | e. Tutoring or mentoring.

3939 | f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade
3940 | students.

3941 | g. Extended school day, week, or year.

3942 | (b) Each school district shall:

3943 | 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student
3944 | who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her
3945 | child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion
3946 | and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause
3947 | exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must
3948 | comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a
3949 | description of proposed interventions and supports that will be
3950 | provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of

3951 reading deficiency.

3952 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a
3953 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can
3954 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent
3955 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,
3956 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,
3957 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.
3958 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student
3959 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative
3960 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of
3961 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the
3962 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels
3963 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning
3964 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education
3965 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation
3966 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate
3967 grade 4 level reading skills.

3968 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph
3969 (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~, including students participating in the school
3970 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a
3971 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's
3972 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,
3973 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

3974 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive
3975 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3

3976 | who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade
 3977 | 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the
 3978 | following:

3979 | a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of
 3980 | student contact time each day and opportunities to master the
 3981 | grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core
 3982 | subject areas through content-rich texts.

3983 | b. Small group instruction.

3984 | c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

3985 | d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory
 3986 | reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,
 3987 | and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language
 3988 | therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating
 3989 | student reading achievement within the same school year.

3990 | e. A read-at-home plan.

3991 | (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

3992 | (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5) (c)
 3993 | ~~(5) (b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the
 3994 | parent of each student the progress of the student toward
 3995 | achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in
 3996 | English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.
 3997 | The district school board must report to the parent the
 3998 | student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.
 3999 | The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the
 4000 | student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and

4001 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided
 4002 under paragraph (5) (a), and other relevant information. Progress
 4003 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format
 4004 adopted by the district school board.

4005 Section 69. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended
 4006 to read:

4007 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
 4008 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,
 4009 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

4010 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the
 4011 Legislature that:

4012 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to
 4013 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20
 4014 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following
 4015 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4016 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it
 4017 invests in education?

4018 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 4019 education system educating its students?

4020 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors
 4021 promoting student achievement?

4022 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education
 4023 institutions performing their responsibility to educate their
 4024 students as measured by how students are performing and how much
 4025 they are learning?

4026 (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance
4027 accountability system be established as a single, unified
4028 accountability system with multiple components, including, but
4029 not limited to, student performance in public schools and school
4030 and district grades.

4031 (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system
4032 comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of
4033 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with
4034 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4035 (d) The early learning accountability system comply with
4036 the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the
4037 requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust
4038 Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4039 (e) ~~(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of
4040 Governors of the State University System recommend to the
4041 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature
4042 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the
4043 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with
4044 information on what the public is receiving in return for the
4045 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20
4046 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4047 (f)1. ~~(e)1.~~ The State Board of Education establish
4048 performance measures and set performance standards for
4049 individual public schools and Florida College System
4050 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on

4051 student achievement.

4052 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System
 4053 establish performance measures and set performance standards for
 4054 individual state universities, including actual completion
 4055 rates.

4056 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4057 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 4058 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all
 4059 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them
 4060 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through
 4061 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,
 4062 and communities.

4063 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific
 4064 standards and measures must be:

- 4065 1. Focused on student success.
- 4066 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 4067 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 4068 4. Measurable over time.
- 4069 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 4070 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to
 4071 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4072 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an
 4073 accountability system that measures student progress toward the
 4074 following goals:

- 4075 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence

4076 of student learning gains at all levels.

4077 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured
4078 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted
4079 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.

4080 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured
4081 by evidence of employment and earnings.

4082 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of
4083 return on investment.

4084 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4085 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide
4086 data required to implement education performance accountability
4087 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education
4088 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality
4089 and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to
4090 the department all data within the State University Database
4091 System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data
4092 warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such
4093 data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual
4094 and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college
4095 readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions
4096 shall annually provide data from the prior year to the
4097 educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse in a format based on data
4098 elements identified by the commissioner.

4099 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational
4100 institutions shall maintain information systems that will

4101 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of
4102 the State University System, and the Legislature with
4103 information and reports necessary to address the specifications
4104 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and
4105 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June
4106 30, 2001.

4107 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in
4108 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
4109 Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the
4110 prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format
4111 prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data
4112 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer
4113 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and
4114 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each
4115 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph
4116 shall report the data to the department.

4117 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
4118 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and
4119 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to
4120 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the
4121 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the
4122 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators
4123 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary
4124 educational institutions.

4125 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data

4126 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing
 4127 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize
 4128 paperwork.

4129 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 4130 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
 4131 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data
 4132 warehouse.

4133 Section 70. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended
 4134 to read:

4135 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement
 4136 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the
 4137 performance of early learning coalitions, district school
 4138 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of
 4139 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school
 4140 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees
 4141 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state
 4142 board rule.

4143 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board
 4144 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to
 4145 request and receive information, data, and reports from early
 4146 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College
 4147 System institutions. Early Learning Coalition chief executive
 4148 officers or executive directors, district school
 4149 superintendents, and Florida College System institution
 4150 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information

4151 and data reported to the state board.

4152 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate
4153 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and
4154 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report
4155 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education
4156 which shall require the early learning coalition, district
4157 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
4158 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4159 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the
4160 State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General
4161 that an early learning coalition, a district school board, or
4162 Florida College System institution is acting without statutory
4163 authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of
4164 Education shall require the early learning coalition, district
4165 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
4166 trustees to document compliance with such law.

4167 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school
4168 board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees
4169 cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of
4170 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4171 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an
4172 early learning coalition, a district school board, or Florida
4173 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or
4174 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the
4175 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to

4176 initiate any of the following actions:

4177 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning
4178 coalition, school district, or Florida College System
4179 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state
4180 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4181 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary
4182 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds
4183 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until
4184 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida
4185 College System institution complies with the law or state board
4186 rule.

4187 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,
4188 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive
4189 grants.

4190 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation
4191 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4192 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a
4193 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or
4194 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4195 Section 71. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
4196 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4197 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4198 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a
4199 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.
4200 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the

4201 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school
 4202 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the
 4203 accountability requirements of the state school system and may
 4204 impose state requirements on school districts in order to
 4205 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and
 4206 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early
 4207 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal
 4208 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility
 4209 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of
 4210 Education.

4211 Section 72. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida
 4212 Statutes, is amended to read:

4213 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
 4214 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
 4215 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
 4216 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
 4217 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
 4218 follows:

4219 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4220 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is
 4221 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students
 4222 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who
 4223 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
 4224 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
 4225 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the

4226 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year
4227 average of the state reading assessment data must use the
4228 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour
4229 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in
4230 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the
4231 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a
4232 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English
4233 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may
4234 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional
4235 student education centers may not be included in the 300
4236 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this
4237 additional hour shall include: research-based reading
4238 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of
4239 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated
4240 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,
4241 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading
4242 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop
4243 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and
4244 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided
4245 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of
4246 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text
4247 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4248 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading
4249 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district
4250 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each

4251 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount
4252 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any
4253 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school
4254 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of
4255 K-12 base funding.

4256 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to
4257 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to
4258 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who
4259 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4260 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
4261 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4262 1. An additional hour per day of intensive reading
4263 instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing elementary
4264 schools by teachers and reading specialists who have
4265 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in
4266 paragraph (a).

4267 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 reading intervention
4268 teachers to provide intensive intervention during the school day
4269 and in the required extra hour for students identified as having
4270 a reading deficiency.

4271 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically
4272 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on
4273 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading
4274 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas
4275 based on student need.

4276 4. Professional development for school district teachers
4277 in scientifically based reading instruction, including
4278 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an
4279 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school
4280 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in
4281 reading.

4282 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other
4283 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading
4284 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in
4285 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading
4286 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~
4287 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the
4288 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and
4289 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early
4290 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
4291 Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4292 6. Supplemental instructional materials that are grounded
4293 in scientifically based reading research as identified by the
4294 Just Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4295 7. Intensive interventions for students in kindergarten
4296 through grade 12 who have been identified as having a reading
4297 deficiency or who are reading below grade level as determined by
4298 the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment or
4299 for certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in
4300 early literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten

4301 Education Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4302 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
4303 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~
4304 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
4305 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by
4306 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
4307 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
4308 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
4309 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
4310 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach
4311 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may
4312 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School
4313 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing
4314 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading
4315 intervention through innovative methods, including career
4316 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from
4317 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,
4318 and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through
4319 integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-
4320 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher
4321 who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must
4322 incorporate strategies identified by the Just Read, Florida!
4323 Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than July 1
4324 annually, the department shall release the school district's
4325 allocation of appropriated funds to those districts having

4326 approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent of
4327 this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have
4328 been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold
4329 funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation
4330 funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The
4331 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each
4332 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting
4333 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.
4334 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its
4335 findings to the Legislature.

4336 2. Each school district that has a school designated as
4337 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified
4338 in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the
4339 comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the
4340 comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and
4341 reading intervention strategies that will be used for the
4342 required additional hour of reading instruction. The term
4343 "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies
4344 frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also
4345 includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use
4346 of technology that targets specific reading skills and
4347 abilities.

4348 Section 73. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of
4349 \$3,765,759 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General
4350 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement the

4351 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program required
4352 by s. 1008.2125, Florida Statutes. Of these funds, \$3 million
4353 shall be placed in reserve. The department is authorized to
4354 submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds
4355 pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes. The budget amendment
4356 shall include a detailed operational work plan and spending
4357 plan. The department shall submit quarterly updates to the plans
4358 and quarterly project status reports to the Governor's Office of
4359 Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on
4360 Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations
4361 Committee. Each status report must include progress made to date
4362 for each project activity, planned and actual tasks and
4363 deliverable completion dates, planned and actual costs incurred,
4364 and any current issues and risks.

4365 Section 74. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of
4366 \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
4367 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to issue a
4368 competitive solicitation to contract with an independent third
4369 party consulting firm to conduct a review of the school
4370 readiness payment rates by county, by provider type, as defined
4371 in s. 1002.88, Florida Statutes, and by care level, as defined
4372 in s. 402.305, Florida Statutes. The review shall include an
4373 evaluation of the current methodology for establishing the
4374 market rate schedule pursuant to s. 1002.895, Florida Statutes,
4375 the current school readiness payment rates, and the impact of

4376 | the approved pay differentials authorized under part VI of
4377 | chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, on the payment rates. The review
4378 | shall include recommendations on a methodology for setting the
4379 | payment rates by county, by provider type, and by care level
4380 | that takes into consideration the impact that local ordinances
4381 | may have on the market rate if such ordinances require more
4382 | stringent staff-to-child ratios than required in s. 402.305(4),
4383 | Florida Statutes, but may not consider school readiness wait
4384 | lists as a factor. The department shall submit the results of
4385 | the review and the recommendations to the Governor's Office of
4386 | Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on
4387 | Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations
4388 | Committee by January 1, 2021.

4389 | Section 75. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.