

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.; requiring
36 | minimum child care licensing standards adopted between
37 | specified dates to be ratified by the Legislature;
38 | revising requirements relating to staff trained in
39 | cardiopulmonary resuscitation; amending s. 402.315,
40 | F.S.; conforming a cross-reference to changes made by
41 | the act; amending s. 402.56, F.S.; revising the
42 | membership of the Children and Youth Cabinet; amending
43 | ss. 411.226, 411.227, 414.295, 1000.01, 1000.02,
44 | 1000.03, 1000.04, 1000.21, 1001.02, 1001.03, 1001.10,
45 | and 1001.11, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-
46 | references to changes made by the act; repealing s.
47 | 1001.213, F.S., relating to the Office of Early
48 | Learning; amending ss. 1001.215, 1001.23, 1001.70,
49 | 1001.706, 1002.22, 1002.32, 1002.34, and 1002.36 F.S.;
50 | conforming provisions and cross-references to changes

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

75 revising the minimum standards for a credential for

76 certain prekindergarten directors; amending s.
77 1002.59, F.S.; revising requirements for emergent
78 literacy and performance standards training courses
79 for prekindergarten instructors; requiring the
80 department to make certain courses available; amending
81 s. 1002.61, F.S.; authorizing certain child
82 development programs operating on a military
83 installment to be private prekindergarten providers
84 within the summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
85 Program; revising the criteria for a teacher to
86 receive priority for the summer program in school
87 district; requiring a child development programs
88 operating on a military installment to comply with
89 specified criteria; requiring early learning
90 coalitions to verify specified information; providing
91 for the removal of a program provider from eligibility
92 under certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.63,
93 F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to verify
94 specified information; providing for the removal of
95 public school program providers from the program under
96 certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.;
97 revising the performance standards for the Voluntary
98 Prekindergarten Education Program; requiring the
99 department to review and revise performance standards
100 on a specified schedule; revising curriculum

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

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

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

176 participating in the school readiness program meets
177 certain provider requirements; providing requirements
178 for a child development program to meet certain
179 liability requirements; amending ss. 1002.89,
180 1002.895, and 1002.91, F.S.; conforming provisions and
181 cross-references to changes made by the act; amending
182 s. 1002.92, F.S.; revising the requirements for
183 specified services child care resources and referral
184 agencies must provide; amending s. 1002.93, F.S.;
185 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
186 repealing s. 1002.94, F.S., relating to the Child Care
187 Executive Partnership Program; amending ss. 1002.95,
188 1002.96, 1002.97, 1002.995, 1003.575, and 1007.01,
189 F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-references to
190 changes made by the act; creating s. 1008.2125, F.S.;
191 creating the coordinated screening and progress
192 monitoring program within the department for specified
193 purposes; requiring the Commissioner of Education to
194 design such program; providing requirements for the
195 administration of such program and the use of results
196 from the program; providing requirements for the
197 commissioner; creating the Early Grade Success
198 Advisory Committee; providing duties of the committee;
199 providing membership of the committee; requiring the
200 committee to elect a chair and a vice chair; providing

201 requirements for such appointments; providing for per
 202 diem for members of the committee; providing meeting
 203 requirements for the committee; providing for a quorum
 204 of the committee; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.;

205 authorizing certain students who enrolled in the
 206 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to receive
 207 intensive reading interventions using specified funds;
 208 amending ss. 1008.31, 1008.32, and 1008.33, F.S.;

209 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 210 amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising the research-based
 211 reading instruction allocation to authorize the use of
 212 such funds for certain intensive reading interventions
 213 for certain students; revising the requirements for
 214 specified reading instruction and interventions;
 215 defining the term "evidence-based;" providing
 216 appropriations; providing requirements for the use of
 217 such funds; providing an effective date.

218
 219 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

220
 221 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of
 222 section 20.055, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

223 20.055 Agency inspectors general.—

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

225 (a) "Agency head" means the Governor, a Cabinet officer,

226 or a secretary or executive director as those terms are defined
 227 in s. 20.03, the chair of the Public Service Commission, the
 228 Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial
 229 Services Commission, the Director of the Office of Financial
 230 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the board of
 231 directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~
 232 ~~executive director of the Office of Early Learning,~~ and the
 233 Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

234 (d) "State agency" means each department created pursuant
 235 to this chapter and the Executive Office of the Governor, the
 236 Department of Military Affairs, the Fish and Wildlife
 237 Conservation Commission, the Office of Insurance Regulation of
 238 the Financial Services Commission, the Office of Financial
 239 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the Public
 240 Service Commission, the Board of Governors of the State
 241 University System, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~
 242 ~~Office of Early Learning,~~ and the state courts system.

243 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection (3) of
 244 section 20.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs
 245 (d) through (k), respectively, present paragraph (i) of
 246 subsection (3) and subsection (5) are amended, and a new
 247 paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to
 248 read:

249 20.15 Department of Education.—There is created a
 250 Department of Education.

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

253 (c) Division of Early Learning.

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

256 ~~1. The Office of Early Learning, which shall be~~
 257 ~~administered by an executive director who is fully accountable~~
 258 ~~to the Commissioner of Education. The executive director shall,~~
 259 ~~pursuant to s. 1001.213, administer the early learning programs,~~
 260 ~~including the school readiness program and the Voluntary~~
 261 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program at the state level.~~

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

265 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The State Board of Education and
 266 the Commissioner of Education shall assign to the divisions such
 267 powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are necessary
 268 to ensure the greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and
 269 effectiveness of education for students in Early Learning-20 ~~K-~~
 270 ~~20~~ education under the jurisdiction of the State Board of
 271 Education.

272 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 273 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

274 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
 275 child abuse or neglect.—

276 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
 277 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information
 278 with respect to, the reporter which shall be released only as
 279 provided in subsection (5), shall be granted only to the
 280 following persons, officials, and agencies:

281 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of
 282 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons
 283 with Disabilities, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~
 284 ~~Learning~~, or county agencies responsible for carrying out:

- 285 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 286 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 287 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 288 4. Healthy Start services;
- 289 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
 290 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393,
 291 family day care homes, providers who receive school readiness
 292 funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other homes used to
 293 provide for the care and welfare of children;
- 294 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential
 295 group homes; or
- 296 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided
 297 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
 298 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

299
 300 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice

301 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant
302 to chapters 984 and 985.

303 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
304 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

305 39.604 Rilya Wilson Act; short title; legislative intent;
306 child care; early education; preschool.—

307 (5) EDUCATIONAL STABILITY.—Just as educational stability
308 is important for school-age children, it is also important to
309 minimize disruptions to secure attachments and stable
310 relationships with supportive caregivers of children from birth
311 to school age and to ensure that these attachments are not
312 disrupted due to placement in out-of-home care or subsequent
313 changes in out-of-home placement.

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

326 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section
327 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

328 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and
329 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the
330 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the
331 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following
332 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this
333 chapter.

334 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

335 (m) Educational materials purchased by certain child care
336 facilities.—Educational materials, such as glue, paper, paints,
337 crayons, unique craft items, scissors, books, ~~and~~ educational
338 toys, purchased by a child care facility that meets the
339 standards delineated in s. 402.305, is licensed under s.
340 402.308, holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation
341 pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, and provides basic health
342 insurance to all employees are exempt from the taxes imposed by
343 this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "basic
344 health insurance" shall be defined and promulgated in rules
345 developed jointly by the Department of Education ~~Children and~~
346 ~~Families~~, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the
347 Financial Services Commission.

348 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph
349 (b) of subsection (2) of section 383.14, Florida Statutes, are
350 amended to read:

351 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary
352 and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.—

353 (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—To help ensure access to the
354 maternal and child health care system, the Department of Health
355 shall promote the screening of all newborns born in Florida for
356 metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result
357 in significant impairment of health or intellect, as screening
358 programs accepted by current medical practice become available
359 and practical in the judgment of the department. The department
360 shall also promote the identification and screening of all
361 newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk
362 factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family
363 stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other high-
364 risk conditions associated with increased risk of infant
365 mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention,
366 remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited
367 to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and
368 case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and
369 intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately
370 following the birth of the child by the attending health care
371 provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals,
372 perinatal centers, county health departments, school health
373 programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and
374 reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

375 (b) Postnatal screening.—A risk factor analysis using the

376 department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be
377 conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the
378 birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of
379 Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for
380 in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk
381 assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that
382 establish thresholds for notification, further assessment,
383 referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or
384 paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures
385 for developing and using the screening instrument, notification,
386 referral, and care coordination services, reporting
387 requirements, management information, and maintenance of a
388 computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which
389 ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the
390 provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No.
391 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting
392 information and maintaining a confidential registry must include
393 a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the
394 state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with
395 existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The
396 department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the
397 screening information registry is integrated with the
398 department's automated data systems, including the Florida On-
399 line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests
400 and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health

401 Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at
 402 such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department
 403 after consultation with the Genetics and Newborn Screening
 404 Advisory Council and the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~
 405 ~~Learning~~.

406 (2) RULES.—

407 (b) After consultation with the Department of Education
 408 ~~Office of Early Learning~~, the department shall adopt and enforce
 409 rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for
 410 environmental risk factors that place children and their
 411 families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other
 412 negative outcomes.

413 Section 7. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section
 414 391.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

415 391.308 Early Steps Program.—The department shall
 416 implement and administer part C of the federal Individuals with
 417 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which shall be known as the
 418 "Early Steps Program."

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

420 (h) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, with
 421 the Medicaid program, the Department of Education program
 422 pursuant to part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
 423 Education Act, and programs providing child screening such as
 424 the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, ~~the Office~~
 425 ~~of Early Learning~~, Healthy Start, and the Help Me Grow program.

426 1. Coordination with the Medicaid program shall be
 427 developed and maintained through written agreements with the
 428 Agency for Health Care Administration and Medicaid managed care
 429 organizations as well as through active and ongoing
 430 communication with these organizations. The department shall
 431 assist local program offices to negotiate agreements with
 432 Medicaid managed care organizations in the service areas of the
 433 local program offices. Such agreements may be formal or
 434 informal.

435 2. Coordination with education programs pursuant to part B
 436 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall
 437 be developed and maintained through written agreements with the
 438 Department of Education. The department shall assist local
 439 program offices to negotiate agreements with school districts in
 440 the service areas of the local program offices.

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

443 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

444 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~
 445 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~
 446 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~
 447 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~
 448 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~
 449 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~
 450 ~~196.198.~~

451 Section 9. Section 402.281, Florida Statutes, is
 452 transferred, renumbered as section 1002.945, Florida Statutes,
 453 and amended to read:

454 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

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

457 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home,
 458 or family day care home that is accredited by an accrediting
 459 association approved by the department under subsection (3) and
 460 meets all other requirements shall, upon application to the
 461 department, receive a separate "Gold Seal Quality Care"
 462 designation.

463 (2) The State Board of Education ~~department~~ shall adopt
 464 rules establishing Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation
 465 standards using nationally recognized accrediting standards and
 466 input from accrediting associations ~~based on the applicable~~
 467 ~~accrediting standards of the National Association for the~~
 468 ~~Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of~~
 469 ~~Family Child Care, and the National Early Childhood Program~~
 470 ~~Accreditation Commission.~~

471 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the department for
 472 participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care program, an
 473 accrediting association must apply to the department and
 474 demonstrate that it:

475 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.

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

479 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of
480 State.

481 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation
482 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:

483 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care
484 provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process.
485 However, accreditation may not be granted to a child care
486 facility, large family child care home, or family day care home
487 before the site is operational and is attended by children.

488 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and
489 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom
490 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

491 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to
492 ensure inter-rater reliability.

493 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring
494 each accredited child care facility, large family child care
495 home, and family day care home to file an annual report with the
496 accrediting association and risk-based, on-site auditing
497 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family
498 child care homes, and family day care homes.

499 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to
500 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-

501 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by
502 the accrediting association.

503 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite
504 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

505 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation
506 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of
507 facilities.

508 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the
509 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a
510 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including
511 the department, the Department of Children and Families, the
512 Department of Health, local licensing entities if applicable,
513 and the early learning coalition.

514 (b) The department shall establish a process that verifies
515 that the accrediting association meets the provisions of
516 paragraph (a), which must include an auditing program and any
517 other procedures that may reasonably determine an accrediting
518 association's compliance with this section. If an accrediting
519 association is not in compliance and fails to cure its
520 deficiencies within 30 days, the department shall recommend to
521 the state board termination of the accrediting association's
522 participation as an accrediting association in the program for a
523 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years. If an
524 accrediting association is removed from being an approved
525 accrediting association, each child care provider accredited by

526 that association shall have up to 1 year to obtain a new
527 accreditation from a department approved accreditation
528 association.

529 (c) If an accrediting association has granted
530 accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care
531 home, or family day care under fraudulent terms or failed to
532 conduct on-site verifications, the accrediting association shall
533 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under
534 subsection (6).

535 ~~(b) In approving accrediting associations, the department~~
536 ~~shall consult with the Department of Education, the Florida Head~~
537 ~~Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child~~
538 ~~Care Management, the Florida Family Child Care Home Association,~~
539 ~~the Florida Children's Forum, the Florida Association for the~~
540 ~~Education of the Young, the Child Development Education~~
541 ~~Alliance, the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools,~~
542 ~~the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, providers~~
543 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents.~~

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

548 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I
549 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and
550 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for

551 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
552 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the
553 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
554 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

555 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or
556 more class II violations, as defined by rule of the Department
557 of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its
558 application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care
559 provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within
560 a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the
561 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
562 provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

563 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for
564 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the
565 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and
566 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of
567 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for
568 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
569 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to
570 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be
571 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal
572 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III
573 violations for a period of 1 year.

574 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the department
575 determines through a formal process that a provider has been in

576 business for at least 5 years and has no other class I
577 violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state
578 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care
579 status. The state board's determination regarding such
580 provider's status is final.

581 (5) A child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305
582 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s.
583 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this
584 section shall be considered an educational institution for the
585 purpose of qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s.
586 196.198.

587 (6) A child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305
588 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s.
589 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this
590 section and which participates in the school readiness program
591 shall receive a minimum of a 20 percent rate differential for
592 each enrolled school readiness child by care level and unit of
593 child care.

594 (7)~~(5)~~ The state board ~~Department of Children and Families~~
595 shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide
596 criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting
597 associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care
598 program and,~~7~~ conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal
599 Quality Care providers,~~7~~ and classifying violations.

600 Section 10. Type two transfer from the Department of

601 Children and Families.-

602 (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,
603 personnel, associated administrative support positions,
604 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative
605 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of
606 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the
607 Gold Seal Quality Care program within the Department of Children
608 and Families are transferred by a type two transfer, as defined
609 in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Department of
610 Education.

611 (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing
612 before July 1, 2020, between the Department of Children and
613 Families, or an entity or agent of the department, and any other
614 agency, entity, or person relating to the Gold Seal Quality Care
615 program shall continue as a binding contract or agreement for
616 the remainder of the term of such contract or agreement on the
617 successor entity responsible for the program, activity, or
618 functions relative to the contract or agreement.

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

622 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.-

623 (1) LICENSING STANDARDS.-The department shall establish
624 licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must
625 meet regardless of the origin or source of the fees used to

626 | operate the facility or the type of children served by the
627 | facility.

628 | (c) The minimum standards for child care facilities shall
629 | be adopted in the rules of the department and shall address the
630 | areas delineated in this section. The department, in adopting
631 | rules to establish minimum standards for child care facilities,
632 | shall recognize that different age groups of children may
633 | require different standards. The department may adopt different
634 | minimum standards for facilities that serve children in
635 | different age groups, including school-age children. The
636 | department shall also adopt by rule a definition for child care
637 | which distinguishes between child care programs that require
638 | child care licensure and after-school programs that do not
639 | require licensure. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to
640 | the contrary, minimum child care licensing standards shall be
641 | developed to provide for reasonable, affordable, and safe
642 | before-school and after-school care. Licensing standards adopted
643 | by the department between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2022, must
644 | be ratified by the Legislature. After-school programs that
645 | otherwise meet the criteria for exclusion from licensure may
646 | provide snacks and meals through the federal Afterschool Meal
647 | Program (AMP) administered by the Department of Health in
648 | accordance with federal regulations and standards. The
649 | Department of Health shall consider meals to be provided through
650 | the AMP only if the program is actively participating in the

651 AMP, is in good standing with the department, and the meals meet
 652 AMP requirements. Standards, at a minimum, shall allow for a
 653 credentialed director to supervise multiple before-school and
 654 after-school sites.

655 (7) SANITATION AND SAFETY.—

656 (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for
 657 sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency
 658 procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The
 659 minimum standards shall require that ~~at least~~ one staff person
 660 trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as evidenced by
 661 current documentation of course completion, must be present at
 662 all times that children are present.

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

665 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

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

671 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 672 402.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

673 402.56 Children's cabinet; organization; responsibilities;
 674 annual report.—

675 (4) MEMBERS.—The cabinet shall consist of 16 members

676 including the Governor and the following persons:

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

678 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;

679 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with

680 Disabilities;

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

682 ~~Office~~ of Early Learning;

683 5. The State Surgeon General;

684 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;

685 7. The Commissioner of Education;

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

687 9. A representative of the Office of Adoption and Child

688 Protection;

689 10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the

690 Governor; and

691 11. Five members who represent children and youth advocacy

692 organizations and who are not service providers, appointed by

693 the Governor.

694 Section 14. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section

695 411.226, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

696 411.226 Learning Gateway.—

697 (2) LEARNING GATEWAY STEERING COMMITTEE.—

698 (e) To support and facilitate system improvements, the

699 steering committee must consult with representatives from the

700 Department of Education, the Department of Health, ~~the Office of~~

701 ~~Early Learning,~~ the Department of Children and Families, the
702 Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of
703 Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Corrections and with the
704 director of the Learning Development and Evaluation Center of
705 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

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

709 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.—The Learning
710 Gateway system consists of the following components:

711 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED
712 ACCESS.—

713 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the
714 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies
715 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,
716 precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,
717 and the service system that is available. The information should
718 target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should
719 be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers
720 of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should
721 be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a
722 community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such
723 as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child
724 checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide
725 technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in

726 developing and distributing educational materials and
727 information.

728 1. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
729 children from birth through age 5 shall be designed to provide
730 information to public and private preschool programs, child care
731 providers, pediatricians, parents, and local businesses and
732 organizations. These strategies should include information on
733 the school readiness performance standards adopted by the
734 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

735 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
736 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate
737 training materials and brochures to parents and public and
738 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local
739 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in
740 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain
741 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades
742 K-3.

743 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.—

744 (a) In coordination with ~~the Office of Early Learning~~, the
745 Department of Education~~,~~ and the Florida Pediatric Society, and
746 using information learned from the local demonstration projects,
747 the Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall establish
748 guidelines for screening children from birth through age 9. The
749 guidelines should incorporate recent research on the indicators
750 most likely to predict early learning problems, mild

751 developmental delays, child-specific precursors of school
 752 failure, and other related developmental indicators in the
 753 domains of cognition; communication; attention; perception;
 754 behavior; and social, emotional, sensory, and motor functioning.

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

756 (c) The steering committee, in cooperation with the
 757 Department of Children and Families and, the Department of
 758 Education, ~~and the Office of Early Learning~~, shall identify the
 759 elements of an effective research-based curriculum for early
 760 care and education programs.

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

763 414.295 Temporary cash assistance programs; public records
 764 exemption.—

765 (1) Personal identifying information of a temporary cash
 766 assistance program participant, a participant's family, or a
 767 participant's family or household member, except for information
 768 identifying a parent who does not live in the same home as the
 769 child, which is held by the department, ~~the Office of Early~~
 770 ~~Learning~~, CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Health,
 771 the Department of Revenue, the Department of Education, or a
 772 local workforce development board or local committee created
 773 pursuant to s. 445.007 is confidential and exempt from s.
 774 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such
 775 confidential and exempt information may be released for purposes

776 | directly connected with:

777 | (a) The administration of the temporary assistance for
 778 | needy families plan under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act,
 779 | as amended, by the department, ~~the Office of Early Learning,~~
 780 | CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Military Affairs,
 781 | the Department of Health, the Department of Revenue, the
 782 | Department of Education, a local workforce development board or
 783 | local committee created pursuant to s. 445.007, or a school
 784 | district.

785 | (b) The administration of the state's plan or program
 786 | approved under Title IV-B, Title IV-D, or Title IV-E of the
 787 | Social Security Act, as amended, or under Title I, Title X,
 788 | Title XIV, Title XVI, Title XIX, Title XX, or Title XXI of the
 789 | Social Security Act, as amended.

790 | (c) An investigation, prosecution, or criminal, civil, or
 791 | administrative proceeding conducted in connection with the
 792 | administration of any of the plans or programs specified in
 793 | paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a federal, state, or local
 794 | governmental entity, upon request by that entity, if such
 795 | request is made pursuant to the proper exercise of that entity's
 796 | duties and responsibilities.

797 | (d) The administration of any other state, federal, or
 798 | federally assisted program that provides assistance or services
 799 | on the basis of need, in cash or in kind, directly to a
 800 | participant.

801 (e) An audit or similar activity, such as a review of
 802 expenditure reports or financial review, conducted in connection
 803 with the administration of plans or programs specified in
 804 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a governmental entity
 805 authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity.

806 (f) The administration of the reemployment assistance
 807 program.

808 (g) The reporting to the appropriate agency or official of
 809 information about known or suspected instances of physical or
 810 mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent
 811 treatment or maltreatment of a child or elderly person receiving
 812 assistance, if circumstances indicate that the health or welfare
 813 of the child or elderly person is threatened.

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

816 Section 17. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
 817 to read:

818 1000.01 The Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
 819 system; technical provisions.—

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

822 (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions of the Florida
 823 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code shall be liberally
 824 construed to the end that its objectives may be effected. It is
 825 the legislative intent that if any section, subsection,

826 sentence, clause, or provision of the Florida Early Learning-20
827 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is held invalid, the remainder of the code
828 shall not be affected.

829 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Florida Early Learning-20
830 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is to provide by law for a state system of
831 schools, courses, classes, and educational institutions and
832 services adequate to allow, for all Florida's students, the
833 opportunity to obtain a high quality education. The Florida
834 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system is established to
835 accomplish this purpose; however, nothing in this code shall be
836 construed to require the provision of free public education
837 beyond grade 12.

838 (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS INCLUDED.—As
839 required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the Florida
840 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall include the
841 uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public K-12
842 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of instruction,
843 beginning with kindergarten, and shall also provide such
844 instruction for students with disabilities, gifted students,
845 limited English proficient students, and students in Department
846 of Juvenile Justice programs as may be required by law. The
847 funds for support and maintenance of the uniform system of free
848 public K-12 schools shall be derived from state, district,
849 federal, and other lawful sources or combinations of sources,
850 including any fees charged nonresidents as provided by law.

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

853 1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida
854 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

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

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

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

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

862 (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports academic
863 excellence.

864 (e) A system that provides for local operational
865 flexibility while promoting accountability for student
866 achievement and improvement.

867 Section 19. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is amended
868 to read:

869 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida Early
870 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

871 (1) Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
872 shall be a decentralized system without excess layers of
873 bureaucracy. Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
874 shall maintain a systemwide technology plan based on a common
875 set of data definitions.

876 (2) (a) The Legislature shall establish education policy,
 877 enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate education
 878 resources.

879 (b) With the exception of matters relating to the State
 880 University System, the State Board of Education shall oversee
 881 the enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision
 882 of direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,
 883 and strong incentives and disincentives to force accountability
 884 for results.

885 (c) The Board of Governors shall oversee the enforcement
 886 of all state university laws and rules and regulations and the
 887 timely provision of direction, resources, assistance,
 888 intervention when needed, and strong incentives and
 889 disincentives to force accountability for results.

890 (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the
 891 state and local educational authorities. The state retains
 892 responsibility for establishing a system of public education
 893 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient operation
 894 of an Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ system of public education and
 895 adequate educational opportunities for all individuals. Local
 896 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully
 897 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to efficiently
 898 use the resources available to them to assist the state in
 899 allowing adequate educational opportunities.

900 (4) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~

901 education system is to allow its students to increase their
902 proficiency by allowing them the opportunity to expand their
903 knowledge and skills through rigorous and relevant learning
904 opportunities, in accordance with the mission statement and
905 accountability requirements of s. 1008.31.

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

908 (a) Learning and completion at all levels, including
909 increased high school graduation rate and readiness for
910 postsecondary education without remediation.—All students
911 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,
912 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter
913 postsecondary education without remediation.

914 (b) Student performance.—Students demonstrate that they
915 meet the expected academic standards consistently at all levels
916 of their education.

917 (c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become
918 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive
919 contributions to their communities.

920 (d) Alignment of standards and resources.—Academic
921 standards for every level of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
922 education system are aligned, and education financial resources
923 are aligned with student performance expectations at each level
924 of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

925 (e) Educational leadership.—The quality of educational

926 leadership at all levels of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education is
 927 improved.

928 (f) Workforce education.—Workforce education is
 929 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new global
 930 economy.

931 (g) Parental, student, family, educational institution,
 932 and community involvement.—Parents, students, families,
 933 educational institutions, and communities are collaborative
 934 partners in education, and each plays an important role in the
 935 success of individual students. Therefore, the State of Florida
 936 cannot be the guarantor of each individual student's success.
 937 The goals of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
 938 are not guarantees that each individual student will succeed or
 939 that each individual school will perform at the level indicated
 940 in the goals.

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

- 946 1. Career opportunities, educational requirements
- 947 associated with each career, educational institutions that
- 948 prepare students to enter each career, and student financial aid
- 949 available to pursue postsecondary instruction required to enter
- 950 each career.

951 2. How to make informed decisions about the program of
952 study that best addresses the students' interests and abilities
953 while preparing them to enter postsecondary education or the
954 workforce.

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

957
958 This information shall be provided to students and parents
959 through websites, handbooks, manuals, or other regularly
960 provided communications.

961 Section 20. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended
962 to read:

963 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education
964 within the Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—
965 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system provides for
966 the delivery of early learning and public education through
967 publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College
968 System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary
969 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and
970 other educational services as provided or authorized by the
971 Constitution and laws of the state.

972 (1) EARLY LEARNING.—Early learning includes the Voluntary
973 Prekindergarten Education Program and the school readiness
974 program.

975 (2)~~(1)~~ PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.—The public K-12 schools

976 | include charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes;
 977 | elementary, middle, and high school grades and special classes;
 978 | virtual instruction programs; workforce education; career
 979 | centers; adult, part-time, and evening schools, courses, or
 980 | classes, as authorized by law to be operated under the control
 981 | of district school boards; and lab schools operated under the
 982 | control of state universities.

983 | ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—
 984 | Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce
 985 | education; Florida College System institutions; state
 986 | universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary
 987 | educational institutions that are authorized and established by
 988 | law.

989 | ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.—The
 990 | Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of the
 991 | delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20
 992 | ~~K-20~~ education system.

993 | ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.—The Florida Virtual
 994 | School is a component of the delivery of public education within
 995 | Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

996 | Section 21. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended
 997 | to read:

998 | 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida
 999 | Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code:

1000 | (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that

1001 provides the means by which students proceed toward their
 1002 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner
 1003 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade level,
 1004 from elementary to middle to high school, to and through
 1005 postsecondary education, and when transferring from one
 1006 educational institution or program to another.

1007 (2) "Commissioner" is the Commissioner of Education.

1008 (3) "Florida College System institution" except as
 1009 otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following
 1010 public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida
 1011 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other
 1012 affiliates of the institution:

1013 (a) Eastern Florida State College, which serves Brevard
 1014 County.

1015 (b) Broward College, which serves Broward County.

1016 (c) College of Central Florida, which serves Citrus, Levy,
 1017 and Marion Counties.

1018 (d) Chipola College, which serves Calhoun, Holmes,
 1019 Jackson, Liberty, and Washington Counties.

1020 (e) Daytona State College, which serves Flagler and
 1021 Volusia Counties.

1022 (f) Florida SouthWestern State College, which serves
 1023 Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties.

1024 (g) Florida State College at Jacksonville, which serves
 1025 Duval and Nassau Counties.

- 1026 (h) The College of the Florida Keys, which serves Monroe
 1027 County.
- 1028 (i) Gulf Coast State College, which serves Bay, Franklin,
 1029 and Gulf Counties.
- 1030 (j) Hillsborough Community College, which serves
 1031 Hillsborough County.
- 1032 (k) Indian River State College, which serves Indian River,
 1033 Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties.
- 1034 (l) Florida Gateway College, which serves Baker, Columbia,
 1035 Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties.
- 1036 (m) Lake-Sumter State College, which serves Lake and
 1037 Sumter Counties.
- 1038 (n) State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, which
 1039 serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.
- 1040 (o) Miami Dade College, which serves Miami-Dade County.
- 1041 (p) North Florida College, which serves Hamilton,
 1042 Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.
- 1043 (q) Northwest Florida State College, which serves Okaloosa
 1044 and Walton Counties.
- 1045 (r) Palm Beach State College, which serves Palm Beach
 1046 County.
- 1047 (s) Pasco-Hernando State College, which serves Hernando
 1048 and Pasco Counties.
- 1049 (t) Pensacola State College, which serves Escambia and
 1050 Santa Rosa Counties.

- 1051 (u) Polk State College, which serves Polk County.
- 1052 (v) St. Johns River State College, which serves Clay,
- 1053 Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.
- 1054 (w) St. Petersburg College, which serves Pinellas County.
- 1055 (x) Santa Fe College, which serves Alachua and Bradford
- 1056 Counties.
- 1057 (y) Seminole State College of Florida, which serves
- 1058 Seminole County.
- 1059 (z) South Florida State College, which serves DeSoto,
- 1060 Hardee, and Highlands Counties.
- 1061 (aa) Tallahassee Community College, which serves Gadsden,
- 1062 Leon, and Wakulla Counties.
- 1063 (bb) Valencia College, which serves Orange and Osceola
- 1064 Counties.
- 1065 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.
- 1066 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student, any
- 1067 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to
- 1068 a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a
- 1069 student in place of the parent.
- 1070 (6) "State university," except as otherwise specifically
- 1071 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch
- 1072 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:
- 1073 (a) The University of Florida.
- 1074 (b) The Florida State University.
- 1075 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

1076 (d) The University of South Florida.
 1077 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.
 1078 (f) The University of West Florida.
 1079 (g) The University of Central Florida.
 1080 (h) The University of North Florida.
 1081 (i) The Florida International University.
 1082 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.
 1083 (k) New College of Florida.
 1084 (l) The Florida Polytechnic University.
 1085 (7) "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" means the
 1086 state's public K-12 curricular standards adopted under s.
 1087 1003.41.
 1088 (8) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the
 1089 State University System.
 1090 Section 22. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (s) of
 1091 subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended
 1092 to read:
 1093 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—
 1094 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief implementing
 1095 and coordinating body of public education in Florida except for
 1096 the State University System, and it shall focus on high-level
 1097 policy decisions. It has authority to adopt rules pursuant to
 1098 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law
 1099 conferring duties upon it for the improvement of the state
 1100 system of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public education except for the

1101 State University System. Except as otherwise provided herein, it
 1102 may, as it finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the
 1103 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of
 1104 the department.

1105 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

1106 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and Legislature,
 1107 as provided in s. 216.023, a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 1108 education budget that estimates the expenditure requirements for
 1109 the Board of Governors, as provided in s. 1001.706, the State
 1110 Board of Education, including the Department of Education and
 1111 the Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards,
 1112 institutions, agencies, and services under the general
 1113 supervision of the Board of Governors, as provided in s.
 1114 1001.706, or the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal
 1115 year. The State Board of Education may not amend the budget
 1116 request submitted by the Board of Governors. Any program
 1117 recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of
 1118 Education which will require increases in state funding for more
 1119 than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1120 (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the
 1121 implementation and operation of a systemwide ~~K-20~~ technology
 1122 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

1123 Section 23. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1001.03,
 1124 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1125 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

1126 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.—The State Board of Education
 1127 shall enforce compliance with law and state board rule by all
 1128 school districts, early learning coalitions, and public
 1129 postsecondary educational institutions, except for the State
 1130 University System, in accordance with the provisions of s.
 1131 1008.32.

1132 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.—The State Board of
 1133 Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors regarding
 1134 the State University System, shall continue to collect and
 1135 maintain, at a minimum, the management information databases for
 1136 state universities, and all other components of the public Early
 1137 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system as such databases existed on
 1138 June 30, 2002.

1139 Section 24. Subsection (1), paragraphs (g), (k), and (l)
 1140 of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1001.10,
 1141 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1142 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and
 1143 duties.—

1144 (1) The Commissioner of Education is the chief educational
 1145 officer of the state and the sole custodian of the educational
 1146 ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, and is responsible for giving full
 1147 assistance to the State Board of Education in enforcing
 1148 compliance with the mission and goals of the Early Learning ~~K-20~~
 1149 education system, except for the State University System.

1150 (6) Additionally, the commissioner has the following

1151 general powers and duties:

1152 (g) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or
1153 before October 1 of each year, recommendations for a coordinated
1154 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education budget that estimates the
1155 expenditures for the Board of Governors, the State Board of
1156 Education, including the Department of Education and the
1157 Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards, institutions,
1158 agencies, and services under the general supervision of the
1159 Board of Governors or the State Board of Education for the
1160 ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State Board
1161 of Education that will require increases in state funding for
1162 more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1163 (k) To prepare, publish, and disseminate user-friendly
1164 materials relating to the state's education system, including
1165 the state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness
1166 program, and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1167 (l) To prepare and publish annually reports giving
1168 statistics and other useful information pertaining to the
1169 state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness program,
1170 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1171 (8) In the event of an emergency situation, the
1172 commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means
1173 of communication with early learning coalitions, local school
1174 districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite
1175 offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of

1176 Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and
1177 assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite
1178 office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after
1179 considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and
1180 clients.

1181 Section 25. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection
1182 (4) of section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1183 1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—

1184 (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently
1185 perform the following duties:

1186 (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the
1187 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the
1188 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State
1189 Board of Education, the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system,
1190 and early learning programs.

1191 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an
1192 integrated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ information system for
1193 educational management in accordance with the requirements of
1194 chapter 1008.

1195 Section 26. Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes, is
1196 repealed.

1197 Section 27. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida
1198 Statutes, is amended to read:

1199 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in
1200 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The

1201 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and
 1202 shall:

1203 (7) Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance to
 1204 school districts' implementation of the ~~K-12~~ comprehensive
 1205 reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

1206 Section 28. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida
 1207 Statutes, is amended to read:

1208 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of
 1209 Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law
 1210 or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department
 1211 shall:

1212 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~
 1213 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

1214 Section 29. Subsection (3) of section 1001.70, Florida
 1215 Statutes, is amended to read:

1216 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University
 1217 System.—

1218 (3) The Board of Governors, in exercising its authority
 1219 under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its
 1220 authority in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances an
 1221 Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ education system that provides
 1222 affordable access to postsecondary educational opportunities for
 1223 residents of the state to the extent authorized by the State
 1224 Constitution and state law.

1225 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section

1226 | 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 1227 | 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—
 1228 | (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.—
 1229 | (b) The Board of Governors shall prepare the legislative
 1230 | budget requests for the State University System, including a
 1231 | request for fixed capital outlay, and submit them to the State
 1232 | Board of Education for inclusion in the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 1233 | legislative budget request. The Board of Governors shall provide
 1234 | the state universities with fiscal policy guidelines, formats,
 1235 | and instruction for the development of individual university
 1236 | budget requests.
 1237 | Section 31. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1238 | 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 1239 | 1002.22 Education records and reports of K-12 students;
 1240 | rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.—
 1241 | (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
 1242 | (b) "Institution" means any public school, center,
 1243 | institution, or other entity that is part of Florida's education
 1244 | system under s. 1000.04(2), (4), and (5) ~~s. 1000.04(1), (3), and~~
 1245 | ~~(4)~~.
 1246 | Section 32. Subsection (3) of section 1002.32, Florida
 1247 | Statutes, is amended to read:
 1248 | 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—
 1249 | (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the
 1250 | provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,

1251 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,
1252 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school
1253 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.
1254 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an
1255 appropriate education for its students.

1256 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics, science,
1257 computer science, and foreign languages. The primary goal of a
1258 lab school is to enhance instruction and research in such
1259 specialized subjects by using the resources available on a state
1260 university campus, while also providing an education in
1261 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide
1262 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where
1263 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade
1264 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State
1265 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement
1266 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

1267 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1268 lab school may be generated by the college of education and
1269 other colleges within the university with which the school is
1270 affiliated.

1271 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1272 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.
1273 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education
1274 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the
1275 affiliated college.

1276 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
 1277 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the
 1278 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the
 1279 Legislature.

1280 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab
 1281 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals
 1282 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.
 1283 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education
 1284 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the
 1285 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

1286 Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section
 1287 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1288 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.—

1289 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

1290 (b) A center must comply with the Florida Early Learning-
 1291 20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code with respect to providing services to
 1292 students with disabilities.

1293 Section 34. Subsection (1) of section 1002.36, Florida
 1294 Statutes, is amended to read:

1295 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

1296 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida School for the Deaf and
 1297 the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported
 1298 residential public school for hearing-impaired and visually
 1299 impaired students in preschool through 12th grade. The school is
 1300 a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's

1301 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system and shall be funded
 1302 through the Department of Education. The school shall provide
 1303 educational programs and support services appropriate to meet
 1304 the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of
 1305 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in the state who
 1306 meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the
 1307 school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state
 1308 agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach
 1309 basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5 years and
 1310 to district school boards upon request. Graduates of the Florida
 1311 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the
 1312 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant
 1313 Program as provided in s. 1009.89.

1314 Section 35. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsection
 1315 (5) of section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, are amended, and
 1316 paragraph (d) is added to subsection (6), to read:

1317 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
 1318 eligibility and enrollment.—

1319 (4)

1320 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed
 1321 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ and must be
 1322 accompanied by a certified copy of the child's birth
 1323 certificate. The forms must include a certification, in
 1324 substantially the form provided in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the
 1325 parent chooses the private prekindergarten provider or public

1326 school in accordance with this section and directs that payments
1327 for the program be made to the provider or school. The
1328 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ may authorize alternative
1329 methods for submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a
1330 certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

1331 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent
1332 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1333 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider
1334 and public school delivering the program within the county where
1335 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to
1336 parents in a format prescribed by the department in accordance
1337 with s. 1002.92(3) ~~Office of Early Learning~~. ~~The profiles must~~
1338 ~~include, at a minimum, the following information about each~~
1339 ~~provider and school:~~

1340 ~~(a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,~~
1341 ~~instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and~~

1342 ~~(b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate~~
1343 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most~~
1344 ~~recent available results of the statewide kindergarten~~
1345 ~~screening.~~

1346 (6)

1347 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the
1348 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or
1349 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and
1350 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.

1351 Section 36. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i),
 1352 (j), and (l) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph
 1353 (b) of subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are
 1354 amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1355 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 1356 private prekindergarten providers.—

1357 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
 1358 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
 1359 following requirements:

1360 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
 1361 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
 1362 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
 1363 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under
 1364 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from
 1365 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is
 1366 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
 1367 military installation that is certified by the United States
 1368 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that
 1369 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A
 1370 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program
 1371 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1372 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

1373 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a
 1374 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,
 1375 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be

1376 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
 1377 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central
 1378 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States
 1379 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association
 1380 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation
 1381 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements
 1382 under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at
 1383 least one onsite visit to the provider or school before
 1384 accreditation is granted;

1385 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under
 1386 s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~; or

1387 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
 1388 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary
 1389 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early
 1390 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the
 1391 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not
 1392 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background
 1393 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)
 1394 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),
 1395 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a
 1396 developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

1397 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for
 1398 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one
 1399 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following
 1400 requirements:

1401 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,
 1402 one of the following credentials:

1403 a. A child development associate credential issued by the
 1404 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
 1405 Recognition; or

1406 b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and
 1407 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential
 1408 described in sub-subparagraph a.

1409
 1410 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under
 1411 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures
 1412 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

1413 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully
 1414 complete at least three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses
 1415 that include developmentally appropriate and experiential
 1416 learning practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance
 1417 standards training course approved by the department ~~office~~ as
 1418 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.
 1419 1002.59. The requirement for completion of the standards
 1420 training course shall take effect July 1, 2021 ~~2014~~, and be
 1421 recognized as part of the informal early learning career pathway
 1422 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). ~~Such and~~
 1423 ~~the~~ course shall be available online or in person.

1424 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a
 1425 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed

1426 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
1427 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1428 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1429 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1430 screening requirements in chapter 435. The department ~~Office of~~
1431 ~~Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph
1432 which shall include required qualifications of substitute
1433 instructors and the circumstances and time limits for which a
1434 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute
1435 instructor.

1436 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a
1437 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director
1438 credential that is approved by the department ~~office~~ as meeting
1439 or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. A
1440 private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in
1441 educational leadership issued by the department satisfies the
1442 requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under s.
1443 1002.57. Successful completion of a child care facility director
1444 credential under s. 402.305(2)(g) before the establishment of
1445 the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July
1446 1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a
1447 prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.

1448 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register
1449 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the
1450 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

1451 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the
1452 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~
1453 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple
1454 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's
1455 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition
1456 on behalf of each site ~~provider~~.

1457 (j) The private prekindergarten provider must maintain
1458 general liability insurance and provide the coalition with
1459 written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
1460 including coverage for transportation of children if
1461 prekindergarten students are transported by the provider. A
1462 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that
1463 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a
1464 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
1465 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
1466 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder
1467 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the
1468 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written
1469 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general
1470 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in
1471 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider
1472 contract with the coalition.

1473 (l) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private
1474 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision
1475 thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to

1476 notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage
1477 maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise
1478 established under s. 768.28. The provider shall indemnify the
1479 coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28. Notwithstanding
1480 paragraph (j), for a child development program that is
1481 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1482 military installation that is certified by the United States
1483 Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability
1484 coverage by affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort
1485 Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. s. 2671 et seq.

1486 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum
1487 credentials ~~and courses~~ required under paragraph (3)(c), may
1488 hold one of the following educational credentials:

1489 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood
1490 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool
1491 education, or family and consumer science;

1492 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,
1493 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach
1494 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of
1495 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if
1496 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school
1497 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

1498 (c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;

1499 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,
1500 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child

1501 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or
 1502 providing child care services for children any age from birth
 1503 through 8 years of age; or

1504 (e) An educational credential approved by the department
 1505 as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential
 1506 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria
 1507 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials
 1508 under this paragraph.

1509 (5)

1510 (b) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, if a
 1511 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
 1512 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program
 1513 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
 1514 may refuse to contract with the provider.

1515 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each
 1516 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary
 1517 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
 1518 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private
 1519 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this
 1520 part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require the
 1521 early learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility
 1522 to deliver the program and receive state funds under this part
 1523 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1524 Section 37. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of
 1525 section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as

1526 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, subsection (1) is amended,
 1527 and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (2) of that
 1528 section, to read:

1529 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

1530 (1) The department ~~office~~, in consultation with the
 1531 Department of Children and Families, shall adopt minimum
 1532 standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of
 1533 private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary
 1534 Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass
 1535 requirements for education and onsite experience.

1536 (2) The educational requirements must include training in
 1537 the following:

1538 (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-
 1539 level data to inform the delivery of instruction;

1540 Section 38. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1541 to read:

1542 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards
 1543 training courses.—

1544 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
 1545 for ~~one or more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for
 1546 prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock
 1547 hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to
 1548 address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students
 1549 in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral
 1550 communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and

1551 phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension
1552 development. Each course must also provide resources containing
1553 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other
1554 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary
1555 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an
1556 emergent literacy training course approved under this section
1557 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy
1558 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6),
1559 and 402.3131(5).

1560 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
1561 for ~~one or more training~~ courses on the performance standards
1562 adopted under s. 1002.67(1). Each course must be comprised of
1563 ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide instruction in
1564 strategies and techniques to address age-appropriate progress of
1565 each child in attaining the standards, and be available online.

1566 (3) The department shall make available online
1567 professional development and training courses comprised of at
1568 least 8 clock hours that support prekindergarten instructors in
1569 increasing the competency of teacher-child interactions.

1570 Section 39. Subsections (6) through (8) of section
1571 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7)
1572 through (9), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (1),
1573 paragraph (b) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and present
1574 subsections (6) and (8) are amended, and new subsections (6) and
1575 (10) are added to that section, to read:

1576 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
 1577 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

1578 (1)

1579 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the
 1580 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or
 1581 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a
 1582 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private
 1583 prekindergarten provider. A child development program that is
 1584 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
 1585 military installation that is certified by the United States
 1586 Department of Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten
 1587 program as a private prekindergarten provider.

1588 (3)

1589 (b) Each public school delivering the summer
 1590 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
 1591 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the
 1592 school district may execute a single agreement with the early
 1593 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1594 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),
 1595 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must
 1596 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one
 1597 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds
 1598 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)
 1599 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"
 1600 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate

1601 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the
1602 district school board to instruct students in the summer
1603 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for
1604 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall
1605 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in
1606 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy
1607 and performance standards courses, as defined in s.
1608 1002.55 (3) (c) 2.

1609 (6) A child development program that is accredited by a
1610 national accrediting body and operates on a military
1611 installation that is certified by the United States Department
1612 of Defense shall comply with the requirements of a private
1613 prekindergarten provider in this section.

1614 (7)~~(6)~~ A public school or private prekindergarten provider
1615 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a
1616 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned
1617 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1618 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1619 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1620 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
1621 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
1622 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
1623 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
1624 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
1625 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the

1626 | circumstances and time limits for which a public school or
 1627 | private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute
 1628 | instructor.

1629 | (9)~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the summer
 1630 | prekindergarten program must also register with the early
 1631 | learning coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office~~
 1632 | ~~of Early Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1633 | Education Program in accordance with this part.

1634 | (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
 1635 | each private prekindergarten provider and public school
 1636 | delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 1637 | within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies
 1638 | with this part.

1639 | (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
 1640 | fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in
 1641 | misconduct, the department shall require the early learning
 1642 | coalition to remove the provider or school from eligibility to
 1643 | deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
 1644 | receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2
 1645 | years but no more than 5 years.

1646 | Section 40. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and
 1647 | subsections (6) and (8) of section 1002.63, Florida Statutes,
 1648 | are amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to
 1649 | read:

1650 | 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by

1651 public schools.—

1652 (3)

1653 (b) Each public school delivering the school-year
 1654 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
 1655 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the
 1656 school district may execute a single agreement with the early
 1657 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1658 (6) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a
 1659 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
 1660 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
 1661 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
 1662 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
 1663 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
 1664 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
 1665 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
 1666 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
 1667 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
 1668 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
 1669 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
 1670 circumstances and time limits for which a public school
 1671 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

1672 (8) Each public school delivering the school-year
 1673 prekindergarten program must register with the early learning
 1674 coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~
 1675 ~~Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

1676 Program in accordance with this part.

1677 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
 1678 each public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1679 Education Program within the coalition's service area complies
 1680 with this part.

1681 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with
 1682 this part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require
 1683 the early learning coalition to remove the school from
 1684 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1685 Program and receive state funds under this part for a period of
 1686 at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1687 Section 41. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1688 to read:

1689 1002.67 Performance standards and; ~~curricula and~~
 1690 ~~accountability.~~—

1691 (1) (a) The department ~~office~~ shall develop and adopt
 1692 performance standards for students in the Voluntary
 1693 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards
 1694 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the
 1695 development of:

1696 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under
 1697 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~

1698 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,
 1699 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological
 1700 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and

1701 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.

1702
1703 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~
1704 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~
1705 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~
1706 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

1707 (b) At least every 3 years, the department ~~office~~ shall
1708 ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the performance
1709 standards established under s. 1002.67 ~~for the statewide~~
1710 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align
1711 the standards to the standards established by the state board
1712 for student performance on the statewide assessments
1713 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

1714 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
1715 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or
1716 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1717 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school
1718 that is placed on probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4) (c).~~

1719 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1720 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
1721 must:

1722 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and
1723 provide for instruction in early math skills;

1724 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in
1725 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department

1726 under subsection (1); and

1727 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated
1728 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening
1729 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 ~~Prepare~~
1730 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~
1731 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

1732 (c) The department office shall adopt procedures for the
1733 review and approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private
1734 prekindergarten providers and public schools that are placed on
1735 probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~. The department
1736 ~~office~~ shall administer the review and approval process and
1737 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.
1738 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph
1739 (b).

1740 ~~(3)(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~
1741 ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~
1742 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~
1743 ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~
1744 ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

1745 ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~
1746 ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~
1747 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~
1748 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

1749 ~~(c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by~~
1750 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~

1751 ~~State Board of Education.~~

1752 ~~(4)(a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~
1753 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~
1754 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~
1755 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~
1756 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~
1757 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

1758 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1759 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~
1760 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~
1761 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~
1762 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~
1763 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~
1764 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

1765 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~
1766 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~
1767 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1768 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~
1769 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~
1770 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~
1771 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~
1772 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~
1773 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~
1774 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~
1775 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~

1776 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~
1777 ~~office.~~

1778 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1779 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~
1780 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~
1781 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~
1782 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~
1783 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~
1784 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~
1785 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~
1786 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~
1787 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
1788 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

1789 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1790 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~
1791 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1792 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~
1793 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~
1794 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~
1795 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~
1796 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~
1797 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

1798 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~
1799 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~
1800 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~

1801 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~
1802 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~
1803 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~
1804 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~
1805 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

1806 Section 42. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created
1807 to read:

1808 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1809 accountability.-

1810 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 program year, each
1811 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating
1812 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must
1813 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
1814 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated
1815 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used
1816 by the department to identify student learning gains, index
1817 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative
1818 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and
1819 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten
1820 provider's and public school's performance metric.

1821 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress
1822 monitoring or screening must be administered by individuals
1823 meeting requirements adopted by the department pursuant to s.
1824 1008.2125.

1825 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public

1826 school must provide a student's performance results from the
1827 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's
1828 parents within 7 days after the administration of such
1829 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

1830 (2) Beginning with the 2020-2021 program year, each
1831 private prekindergarten provider and public school in the
1832 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in
1833 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education
1834 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of
1835 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,
1836 classroom organization, and instructional support for children
1837 ages 3 to 5 years. Each private prekindergarten provider and
1838 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1839 shall receive from the department the results of the program
1840 assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the
1841 observation. The program assessment must be administered by
1842 individuals who meet requirements established by rule of the
1843 State Board of Education.

1844 (3) (a) For the 2019-2020 program year, the department
1845 shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private
1846 prekindergarten provider and public school in the Voluntary
1847 Prekindergarten Education Program based upon learning gains and
1848 the percentage of students who are assessed as ready for
1849 kindergarten. The department shall require that each school
1850 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use

1851 before the 2020-2021 school year to each kindergarten student in
1852 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2020-
1853 2021 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide
1854 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private
1855 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1856 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a
1857 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results
1858 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2020-
1859 2021 program year. Any private prekindergarten provider or
1860 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1861 which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for
1862 the 2019-2020 program year is subject to the probation
1863 requirements of subsection (5).

1864 (b) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department shall
1865 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider
1866 based on the program assessment under subsection (2). Any
1867 private prekindergarten provider or public school in the
1868 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program which fails to meet
1869 the minimum program assessment composite score established by
1870 the department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(n) for the 2020-2021
1871 program year is subject to the probation requirements of
1872 subsection (5).

1873 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2021-2022 program year, the
1874 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each
1875 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's

1876 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the
1877 following:

1878 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection
1879 (2), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1880 2. Learning gains operationalized as change in ability
1881 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results
1882 described in subsection (1).

1883 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes
1884 described in subsection (1).

1885 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's
1886 performance metric may only include prekindergarten students who
1887 have attended at least 85 percent of a private prekindergarten
1888 provider's or public school's program.

1889 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance
1890 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or
1891 public school site.

1892 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent
1893 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent
1894 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early
1895 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability
1896 systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a
1897 limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the
1898 profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following
1899 designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency,"
1900 "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable

1901 terminology determined by the State Board of Education which may
1902 not include letter grades. The independent expert may not be a
1903 direct stakeholder or have had a financial interest in the
1904 design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1905 Program or public school system within the last 5 years.

1906 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall
1907 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten
1908 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.
1909 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15
1910 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent
1911 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program
1912 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or
1913 public school may not receive a differential payment if it
1914 receives a designation of "proficient" or lower. Before the
1915 adoption of the methodology, the department and the independent
1916 expert shall confer with the Early Grade Success Advisory
1917 Committee under s. 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the
1918 State Board of Education for the final recommendations on the
1919 designation system and differential payments.

1920 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually
1921 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1922 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in
1923 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph
1924 (d). Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each private
1925 prekindergarten provider or public school shall be assigned a

1926 designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-
1927 year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by
1928 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public
1929 schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the summer
1930 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by all
1931 participating private prekindergarten providers or public
1932 schools.

1933 (g) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1934 that is designated "proficient," "highly proficient," or
1935 "excellent" demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory
1936 delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1937 (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early
1938 learning provider performance profiles required under s.
1939 1002.92(3).

1940 (5)(a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten
1941 provider's program assessment composite score for its
1942 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program
1943 assessment composite score for contracting established by the
1944 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(n), the private
1945 prekindergarten provider or public school may not participate in
1946 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the
1947 consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school
1948 or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite
1949 score for contracting.

1950 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public

1951 school's performance metric or designation falls below the
1952 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning
1953 coalition shall:

1954 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval
1955 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and
1956 implement the plan.

1957 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1958 3. Require the provider or school to take certain
1959 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved
1960 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development
1961 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional
1962 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,
1963 instructional support, language development, phonological
1964 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

1965 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1966 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
1967 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets
1968 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the
1969 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs
1970 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's
1971 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1972 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more
1973 than 5 years.

1974 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1975 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet

1976 | the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted
 1977 | a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall
 1978 | require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's or
 1979 | school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1980 | Education Program and receive state funds for the program for a
 1981 | period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1982 | (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private
 1983 | prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
 1984 | probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently
 1985 | fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and
 1986 | for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an
 1987 | exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the
 1988 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
 1989 | funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,
 1990 | upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or
 1991 | public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

1992 | (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public
 1993 | school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such
 1994 | an exemption, must be submitted to the department in the manner
 1995 | and within the timeframes prescribed by the department and must
 1996 | include the following:

1997 | 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or
 1998 | public school which documents the achievement and progress of
 1999 | the children served, as measured by any required screenings or
 2000 | assessments.

2001 2. Data from the program assessment required under
 2002 subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices
 2003 as recognized by the tool developer.

2004 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district
 2005 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and
 2006 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting
 2007 association, as applicable, relating to the private
 2008 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with
 2009 state and local health and safety standards.

2010 (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good
 2011 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not
 2012 limited to, all of the following:

2013 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private
 2014 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically
 2015 significant population of children with special needs who have
 2016 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward
 2017 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education
 2018 plans.

2019 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary
 2020 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten
 2021 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has
 2022 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening
 2023 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

2024 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which
 2025 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the

2026 tool developer.

2027 4. Verification that local and state health and safety
 2028 requirements are met.

2029 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any
 2030 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any
 2031 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as
 2032 defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families,
 2033 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request
 2034 for the exemption.

2035 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
 2036 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its
 2037 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required
 2038 under subsection (5) (b) until the provider or school meets the
 2039 minimum performance metric.

2040 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private
 2041 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
 2042 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all
 2043 other applicable requirements of this part, the department shall
 2044 notify the early learning coalition of the good cause exemption
 2045 and direct that the early learning coalition not remove the
 2046 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary
 2047 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for
 2048 the program.

2049 (g) The department shall report the number of private
 2050 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a

2051 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part
 2052 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(6).

2053 (7) Representatives from each school district and
 2054 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to
 2055 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary
 2056 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

2057 Section 43. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is
 2058 repealed.

2059 Section 44. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection
 2060 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of
 2061 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida
 2062 Statutes, are amended to read:

2063 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

2064 (3)

2065 (c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated
 2066 student enrollment in each coalition service area. The
 2067 ~~department Office of Early Learning~~ shall reallocate funds among
 2068 the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student
 2069 enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall
 2070 report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a
 2071 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal
 2072 year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent
 2073 fiscal year.

2074 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

2075 (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs

2076 listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent
2077 of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under
2078 subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the
2079 funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw
2080 from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the
2081 programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of
2082 the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time
2083 equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and
2084 reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued
2085 in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~
2086 uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

2087 (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the
2088 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw
2089 from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the
2090 child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer
2091 programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time
2092 equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is
2093 reenrolled.

2094
2095 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program
2096 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten
2097 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from
2098 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good
2099 cause exemption under this subsection. The department ~~Office of~~
2100 ~~Early Learning~~ shall establish criteria specifying whether a

2101 good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under
2102 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a
2103 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship
2104 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under
2105 paragraph (b).

2106 (5)

2107 (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt
2108 procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers
2109 and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2110 Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance
2111 payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment
2112 in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the
2113 reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the
2114 uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The
2115 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds
2116 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning
2117 coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private
2118 prekindergarten providers and public schools.

2119 (6)

2120 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district
2121 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each
2122 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
2123 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
2124 month's certified student attendance.

2125 2. The parent must submit the verification of the

2126 student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or
 2127 public school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of~~
 2128 ~~Early Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the
 2129 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in
 2130 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to
 2131 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in
 2132 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the
 2133 program be made to the provider or school:

2134 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE

2135 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

2136 I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,
 2137 ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2138 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I
 2139 continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver
 2140 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid
 2141 to the provider or school for my child.

2142 ...(Signature of Parent)...

2143 ...(Date)...

2144 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school
 2145 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each
 2146 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning
 2147 coalition, and each public school must permit the school
 2148 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal
 2149 business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
 2150 adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school

2151 districts to review the original signed forms against the
2152 certified student attendance. The review procedures shall
2153 provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,
2154 including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early
2155 learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the
2156 review procedures.

2157 (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,
2158 for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the
2159 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance
2160 policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private
2161 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance
2162 policy must include at least the following provisions:

2163 1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata
2164 basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

2165 2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on
2166 behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a
2167 public school may be for hours a student is absent.

2168 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school may
2169 not receive payment for absences that occur before a student's
2170 first day of attendance or after a student's last day of
2171 attendance.

2172

2173 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding
2174 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten
2175 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its

2176 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

2177 (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require
 2178 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum
 2179 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
 2180 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative
 2181 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent
 2182 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic
 2183 submission of forms, including those required for child
 2184 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and
 2185 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school
 2186 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system
 2187 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early
 2188 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In
 2189 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate
 2190 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative
 2191 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend
 2192 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to
 2193 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under
 2194 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition
 2195 under this subsection may be used only for administering the
 2196 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used
 2197 for the school readiness program or other programs.

2198 Section 45. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida
 2199 Statutes, is amended to read:

2200 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary

2201 Prekindergarten Education Program.—

2202 (1) (a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary
 2203 Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning
 2204 coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a
 2205 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are
 2206 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
 2207 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such
 2208 records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
 2209 observations, and personal identifying information of an
 2210 enrolled child and his or her parent.

2211 (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child
 2212 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held
 2213 by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early~~
 2214 ~~Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2215 provider before, on, or after the effective date of this
 2216 exemption.

2217 Section 46. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2218 to read:

2219 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;
 2220 accountability requirements.—

2221 (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard
 2222 statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary
 2223 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized
 2224 attachments by provider type. The department shall publish a
 2225 copy of the standard statewide provider contract on its website.

2226 The standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a
 2227 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for
 2228 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a
 2229 provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the
 2230 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide
 2231 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process
 2232 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,
 2233 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any
 2234 provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or
 2235 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~
 2236 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
 2237 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

- 2238 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:
- 2239 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials
 2240 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.
- 2241 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early
 2242 mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and
 2243 1002.59.
- 2244 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers
 2245 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the
 2246 minimum performance metric as required by s. 1002.68 of the
 2247 high-quality professional development opportunities developed or
 2248 supported by the department.
- 2249 (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2250 Education Program by the early learning coalitions, including,

2251 but not limited to, procedures for:

2252 1. Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
2253 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2254 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children
2255 by public schools and private providers that meet specified
2256 requirements.

2257 2. Providing parents with profiles of private
2258 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

2259 3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and
2260 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,
2261 1002.61, and 1002.63.

2262 4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten
2263 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61
2264 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility
2265 whenever possible.

2266 5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten
2267 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools
2268 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or
2269 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2270 6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public
2271 schools under s. 1002.71.

2272 7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and
2273 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

2274 8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the
2275 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2276 9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private
2277 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with
2278 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.
2279 1002.71.

2280 (3) The department shall administer the accountability
2281 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2282 at the state level.

2283 (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the
2284 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2285 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

2286 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten
2287 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2288 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public
2289 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.
2290 1002.68.

2291 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public
2292 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the
2293 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time
2294 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a
2295 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
2296 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program
2297 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
2298 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the
2299 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2300 Education Program.

2301 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
 2302 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2303 under s. 1002.66.

2304 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers
 2305 under s. 1002.66.

2306 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~
 2307 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~
 2308 ~~1002.69.~~

2309 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~
 2310 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
 2311 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
 2312 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~
 2313 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
 2314 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
 2315 ~~department.~~

2316 (f) (e) Approving Approval of specialized instructional
 2317 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2318 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~
 2319 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2320 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or
 2321 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.
 2322 1002.68 s. 1002.69(7).

2323 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the
 2324 distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.
 2325 1002.71.

2326 ~~(6)(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the department may not
 2327 impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or
 2328 public school that does not deliver the Voluntary
 2329 Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under
 2330 this part.

2331 Section 47. Sections 1002.75 and 1002.77, Florida
 2332 Statutes, are repealed.

2333 Section 48. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2334 to read:

2335 1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education
 2336 ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)
 2337 and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring
 2338 duties upon the department ~~office~~.

2339 Section 49. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2340 to read:

2341 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of
 2342 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2343 (1) "At-risk child" means:

2344 (a) A child from a family under investigation by the
 2345 Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's
 2346 office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2347 (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the
 2348 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider
 2349 and who is from a family that is actively participating and
 2350 complying in department-prescribed activities, including

2351 education, health services, or work.

2352 (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the
 2353 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service
 2354 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2355 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or
 2356 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after
 2357 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and
 2358 Families or its contracted provider.

2359 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a
 2360 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a
 2361 certified domestic violence center.

2362 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered
 2363 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families
 2364 certified homeless shelter.

2365 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care
 2366 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,
 2367 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,
 2368 including reasonable travel time.

2369 (3)~~(4)~~ "Direct enhancement services" means services for
 2370 families and children that are in addition to payments for the
 2371 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct
 2372 enhancement services for families and children may include
 2373 supports for providers, parent training and involvement
 2374 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique
 2375 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement

2376 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be
2377 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~§~~
2378 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2379 (4)~~(5)~~ "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary
2380 or permanent, of a child from participation in the school
2381 readiness program. Removal of a child from the school readiness
2382 program may be based on the following events: a reduction in
2383 available school readiness program funding, participant's
2384 failure to meet eligibility or program participation
2385 requirements, fraud, or a change in local service priorities.

2386 (5)~~(6)~~ "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived
2387 from work, professional service, or self-employment. The term
2388 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash
2389 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

2390 (6)~~(7)~~ "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family
2391 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty
2392 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family
2393 as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural
2394 worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer
2395 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according
2396 to weather conditions and market stability.

2397 (7)~~(8)~~ "Family income" means the combined gross income,
2398 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by
2399 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older
2400 who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.

2401 The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled
 2402 high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or
 2403 a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22
 2404 years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high
 2405 school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special
 2406 diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also
 2407 does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing
 2408 assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the
 2409 associated utilities expenses.

2410 (8)~~(9)~~ "Family or household members" means spouses, former
 2411 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are
 2412 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have
 2413 been married, and other persons who are currently residing
 2414 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

2415 (9)~~(10)~~ "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not
 2416 more than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education
 2417 services within a 24-hour period.

2418 (10)~~(11)~~ "Market rate" means the price that a child care
 2419 or early childhood education provider charges for full-time or
 2420 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early
 2421 childhood education services.

2422 ~~(12) "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the~~
 2423 ~~Department of Education.~~

2424 (11)~~(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child
 2425 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour

2426 period.

2427 (12)~~(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the

2428 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency

2429 distribution average of the market rate by program care level

2430 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which

2431 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

2432 (13)~~(14)~~ "Single point of entry" means an integrated

2433 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her

2434 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary

2435 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations

2436 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or

2437 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a

2438 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for

2439 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2440 (14)~~(15)~~ "Unearned income" means income other than earned

2441 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

2442 (a) Documented alimony and child support received.

2443 (b) Social security benefits.

2444 (c) Supplemental security income benefits.

2445 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.

2446 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation

2447 benefits.

2448 (f) Veterans' benefits.

2449 (g) Retirement benefits.

2450 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.

2451 (15)~~(16)~~ "Working family" means:

2452 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom
 2453 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2454 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;

2455 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom
 2456 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2457 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours
 2458 per week; or

2459 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with
 2460 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to
 2461 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician
 2462 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is
 2463 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at
 2464 least 20 hours per week.

2465 Section 50. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2466 to read:

2467 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;
 2468 powers and duties.—

2469 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and
 2470 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts
 2471 98 and 99, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~
 2472 is designated as the lead agency and must comply with lead
 2473 agency responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department
 2474 ~~office~~ may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of,
 2475 and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss.

2476 411.223 and 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for
2477 implementation of the school readiness program. Section
2478 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply to the school readiness program.

2479 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2480 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered
2481 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

2482 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to
2483 choose from a variety of child care categories, including
2484 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to
2485 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development
2486 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health
2487 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and
2488 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or
2489 excluded in any of these categories.

2490 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and
2491 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual
2492 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,
2493 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of
2494 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,
2495 including:

2496 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for
2497 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides
2498 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,
2499 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.
2500 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

- 2501 a. Direct services to children.
- 2502 b. Administrative costs.
- 2503 c. Quality activities.
- 2504 d. Nondirect services.
- 2505 2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to
- 2506 perform data matches on children participating in the school
- 2507 readiness program and their families in order to verify the
- 2508 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.
- 2509 (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of
- 2510 the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate.
- 2511 (e) Review each early learning coalition's school
- 2512 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval
- 2513 of the plan and any amendments submitted.
- 2514 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to
- 2515 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of
- 2516 this effort, the department ~~office~~:
- 2517 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that
- 2518 address the state's school readiness program, including:
- 2519 a. Statewide data information program requirements that
- 2520 include:
- 2521 (I) Eligibility requirements.
- 2522 (II) Financial reports.
- 2523 (III) Program accountability measures.
- 2524 (IV) Child progress reports.
- 2525 b. Child care resource and referral services.

2526 c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.
 2527 2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on
 2528 additional support services to complement the school readiness
 2529 program, including:
 2530 ~~a. Rating and improvement systems.~~
 2531 a.b. Warm-Line services.
 2532 b.e. Anti-fraud plans.
 2533 ~~d. School readiness program standards.~~
 2534 ~~e. Child screening and assessments.~~
 2535 c.f. Training and support for parental involvement in
 2536 children's early education.
 2537 ~~d.g.~~ Family literacy activities and services.
 2538 (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning
 2539 coalitions.
 2540 (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,
 2541 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the
 2542 Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to
 2543 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety
 2544 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child
 2545 care training and credentialing.
 2546 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local
 2547 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of
 2548 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of
 2549 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify
 2550 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist

2551 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a
 2552 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for
 2553 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety
 2554 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the
 2555 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A
 2556 child development program that is accredited by a national
 2557 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is
 2558 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted
 2559 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2560 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the ~~Develop~~
 2561 ~~and adopt~~ standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the
 2562 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children
 2563 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for
 2564 children from birth to 5 years of age in the school readiness
 2565 program must be aligned with the performance standards adopted
 2566 for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2567 and must address the following domains:

- 2568 1. Approaches to learning.
- 2569 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 2570 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 2571 4. Physical development.
- 2572 5. Self-regulation.

2573 (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are
 2574 valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at
 2575 least three times a year. The assessments must:

2576 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~critereion-~~
 2577 ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across
 2578 the core domains of early childhood development and that can be
 2579 used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.

2580 2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted
 2581 pursuant to paragraph (j).

2582 3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children
 2583 with disabilities and English language learners and be
 2584 administered by qualified individuals, consistent with the
 2585 developer's instructions.

2586 4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by
 2587 the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary
 2588 Prekindergarten Education Program.

2589 5. Provide data in a format for use in the single
 2590 statewide information system to meet the requirements of
 2591 paragraph (q) ~~(p)~~.

2592 (l) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the
 2593 performance standards for the school readiness program and
 2594 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's
 2595 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

2596 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning
 2597 coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard
 2598 statewide provider contract to be used with each school
 2599 readiness program provider, with standardized attachments by
 2600 provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the

2601 standard statewide provider contract on its website. The
2602 standard statewide contract shall include, at a minimum,
2603 contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the Child
2604 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R. parts 98
2605 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable; program
2606 assessment requirements; and provisions for provider probation,
2607 termination for cause, and emergency termination for those
2608 actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate and
2609 serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the
2610 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also
2611 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency
2612 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to
2613 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that
2614 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and
2615 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also
2616 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established
2617 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the
2618 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting
2619 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)
2620 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to
2621 paragraph (n).

2622 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness
2623 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child
2624 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,
2625 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and

2626 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The
2627 implementation of the program assessment must ~~also~~ include the
2628 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of
2629 Education:

2630 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program
2631 assessment composite score threshold for contracting purposes
2632 and program improvement through an improvement plan. The minimum
2633 program assessment composite score required for the Voluntary
2634 Prekindergarten Education Program contracting threshold must be
2635 the same as the minimum program assessment composite score
2636 required for contracting for the school readiness program. The
2637 methodology for the calculation of the minimum program
2638 assessment composite score shall be reviewed by the independent
2639 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

2640 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of
2641 program assessment, and exemptions.

2642 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential
2643 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the
2644 department ~~office~~ under paragraph (n). The differential payment
2645 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and
2646 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5
2647 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to
2648 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide
2649 information system in the domains of language and executive
2650 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to

2651 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum program assessment
2652 score adopted ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes are ineligible
2653 for such payment.

2654 (p) No later than July 1, 2021, develop and adopt
2655 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to
2656 make available contracted slots to serve children at the
2657 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children
2658 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty
2659 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted
2660 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of
2661 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.
2662 1002.85(2)(j).

2663 (q) ~~(p)~~ Establish a single statewide information system
2664 that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the
2665 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,
2666 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining
2667 eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and
2668 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early
2669 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.
2670 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

2671 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her
2672 child as the child moves among programs within the state.

2673 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level
2674 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality
2675 improvement and investment decisions.

2676 (r)~~(q)~~ Provide technical support to coalitions to
2677 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures
2678 adopted in state board rule for early learning coalitions to use
2679 when monitoring the compliance of school readiness program
2680 providers with the terms of the standard statewide provider
2681 contract.

2682 (s)~~(r)~~ At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic
2683 monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early
2684 learning coalition in administering the school readiness
2685 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program
2686 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program
2687 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2688 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must
2689 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's
2690 finances, management, operations, and programs.

2691 (t)~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal
2692 Education Programs within the Department of Education to
2693 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to
2694 the populations served by the bureau.

2695 (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to
2696 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and
2697 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,
2698 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
2699 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
2700 special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2701 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day
 2702 care homes of the availability of this service through the child
 2703 care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2704 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line
 2705 to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning
 2706 coalition service area.

2707 (v)~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the
 2708 supply and improve the quality of child care services for
 2709 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who
 2710 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in
 2711 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant
 2712 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

2713 (w)~~(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training
 2714 requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child
 2715 development standards, health and safety requirements, and
 2716 social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include
 2717 positive behavior intervention and support models, including the
 2718 integration of early learning professional development pathways
 2719 established in s. 1002.995.

2720 (x)~~(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness
 2721 plans for school readiness program providers.

2722 (y)~~(x)~~ Establish group sizes.

2723 (z)~~(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not
 2724 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.
 2725 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program

2726 providers.

2727 ~~(aa)(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including
2728 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance
2729 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2730 (3)(a) The department shall adopt performance standards
2731 and outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a
2732 minimum, include the development of objective customer service
2733 surveys that shall be deployed to:

2734 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the
2735 completion of a referral inquiry.

2736 2. Annually to parents at the time of eligibility
2737 determination.

2738 3. Child care providers that participate in the school
2739 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2740 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider
2741 contract.

2742 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

2743 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a
2744 statistically significant sample size and calculated annually
2745 for each early learning coalition and included in the
2746 department's annual report under subsection (7). If an early
2747 learning coalition's customer satisfaction survey results are
2748 below 60 percent, the coalition shall be placed on a 1-year
2749 corrective action plan. If, after being placed on corrective
2750 action, an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction

2751 survey results do not improve above the 60 percent threshold,
2752 the department may contract out or merge the coalition.

2753 (4)-(3) If the department ~~office~~ determines during the
2754 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring
2755 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an
2756 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its
2757 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and
2758 outcome measures adopted by the department ~~office~~, or has not
2759 effectively administered the school readiness program or
2760 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the department
2761 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer
2762 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a
2763 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and
2764 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
2765 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or
2766 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is
2767 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board
2768 ~~office~~.

2769 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for merging
2770 early learning coalitions for failure to meet the requirements
2771 of subsection (3) or subsection (4), including procedures for
2772 the consolidation of merging coalitions that minimizes
2773 duplication of programs and services due to the merger, and for
2774 the early termination of the terms of the coalition members
2775 which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2776 (6)~~(4)~~ The department ~~office~~ may request the Governor to
 2777 apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head
 2778 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness
 2779 program.

2780 (7)~~(5)~~ By January 1 of each year, the department ~~office~~
 2781 shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities
 2782 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary
 2783 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the
 2784 following:

2785 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout
 2786 the state, including the school readiness program and the
 2787 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2788 1. The total and average number of children served in the
 2789 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility
 2790 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of
 2791 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2792 Program.

2793 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,
 2794 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of
 2795 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,
 2796 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2797 3. A description of the department's ~~office's~~ and each
 2798 coalition's expenditures by fund source for the quality and
 2799 enhancement activities described in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
 2800 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2801 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to
 2802 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2803 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early
 2804 learning programs.

2805 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and
 2806 the reason for disenrollment.

2807 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2808 8. The number of school readiness program providers who
 2809 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph
 2810 (2) (n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum
 2811 program assessment composite score ~~threshold~~ for contracting
 2812 established under paragraph (2) (n); and the number of providers
 2813 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the
 2814 program assessment under paragraph (2) (n).

2815 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the
 2816 reasons for revocation.

2817 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the
 2818 single statewide information system established in subsection
 2819 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child
 2820 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2821 (8) (a) (6) (a) Parental choice of child care providers,
 2822 including private and faith-based providers, shall be
 2823 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with
 2824 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2825 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment

2826 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45
2827 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

2828 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with
2829 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment
2830 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,
2831 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment
2832 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the
2833 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must
2834 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized
2835 representative of the provider.

2836 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash
2837 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for
2838 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or
2839 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of
2840 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2841 (9)~~(7)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does
2842 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,
2843 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional
2844 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the
2845 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

2846 Section 51. Subsections (5) through (14) of section
2847 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)
2848 through (15), respectively, and subsections (1) and (3),
2849 paragraphs (e), (f), and (m) of subsection (4), and present
2850 subsections (5), (11), and (13) are amended, and a new

2851 subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

2852 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2853 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions
2854 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services
2855 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67
2856 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for
2857 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program
2858 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2859 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
2860 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the
2861 ~~same~~ qualifications of a as private sector business member
2862 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (6) (5). In
2863 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of
2864 Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early
2865 learning coalition board membership.

2866 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the
2867 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
2868 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
2869 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
2870 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
2871 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of
2872 such members may serve as a voting member:

2873 (e) A children's services council or juvenile welfare
2874 board chair or executive director from each county, if
2875 applicable.

2876 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care
 2877 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing
 2878 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

2879 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2880 (5) If members of the board are found to be
 2881 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition
 2882 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate
 2883 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership
 2884 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

2885 ~~(6)(5) The early learning coalition may appoint additional~~
 2886 ~~including the members who appointed by the Governor under~~
 2887 ~~subsection (3), more than one-third of the members of each early~~
 2888 ~~learning coalition must be private sector business members,~~
 2889 ~~either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of~~
 2890 ~~whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial~~
 2891 ~~financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary~~
 2892 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this~~
 2893 ~~chapter or the school readiness program. To meet this~~
 2894 ~~requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional~~
 2895 ~~members.~~ The department ~~office~~ shall establish criteria for
 2896 appointing private sector business members. These criteria must
 2897 include standards for determining whether a member or relative
 2898 has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery
 2899 of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school
 2900 readiness program.

2901 (12) ~~(11)~~ Each early learning coalition shall establish
2902 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must
2903 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4
2904 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~
2905 ~~in conjunction with their membership on the Early Learning~~
2906 ~~Advisory Council pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may
2907 serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs
2908 in an appointed position, the coalition must advertise the
2909 vacancy.

2910 (14) ~~(13)~~ Each early learning coalition shall complete an
2911 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive
2912 director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the
2913 department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the
2914 commissioner by June 30 of each year. ~~use a coordinated~~
2915 ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~
2916 ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~
2917 ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~
2918 ~~adopted by the office.~~

2919 Section 52. Subsections (7) through (20) of section
2920 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)
2921 through (21), respectively, subsections (1), (2), and (4) and
2922 present subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20)
2923 of that section are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added
2924 to that section, to read:

2925 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers

2926 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2927 (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program
 2928 of school readiness program services in accordance with this
 2929 part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which
 2930 enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of
 2931 children to achieve the performance standards.

2932 (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible
 2933 children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program
 2934 in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education
 2935 ~~office~~.

2936 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the
 2937 department ~~office~~ pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.
 2938 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical
 2939 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and
 2940 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,
 2941 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care
 2942 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve
 2943 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2944 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that
 2945 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by
 2946 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the
 2947 performance standards adopted by the department.

2948 ~~(8)(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87
 2949 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child
 2950 eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must

2951 document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school
2952 readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by
2953 the department office.

2954 (9)~~(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides
2955 for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families
2956 receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~
2957 ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~
2958 ~~a case-by-case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child
2959 or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's
2960 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose
2961 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits
2962 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in
2963 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency
2964 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the
2965 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in
2966 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may
2967 not transfer school readiness program services to another school
2968 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted
2969 documentation from the current school readiness program provider
2970 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has
2971 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2972 (16)~~(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in
2973 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental
2974 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.
2975 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring

2976 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to
2977 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial
2978 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local
2979 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers
2980 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored
2981 biennially.

2982 ~~(17)-(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all
2983 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The
2984 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
2985 ~~average~~ market rate, include the projected number of children to
2986 be served, and be submitted for approval by the department
2987 ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed at
2988 not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day
2989 care home.

2990 ~~(18)-(17)~~ Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the
2991 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and
2992 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school
2993 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2994 Program services and submit the plan to the department ~~office~~
2995 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

2996 ~~(19)-(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual
2997 report to the department ~~office~~. The report shall conform to the
2998 format adopted by the department ~~office~~ and must include:

2999 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,
3000 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~

3001 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds,~~ and other local revenues
 3002 available to the coalition.

3003 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including
 3004 total expenditures for administrative activities, quality
 3005 activities, nondirect services, and direct services for
 3006 children.

3007 (c) The total number of coalition staff and the related
 3008 expenditures for salaries and benefits. For any subcontracts,
 3009 the total number of contracted staff and the related
 3010 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

3011 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness
 3012 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility
 3013 priority category, reported as the number of children served
 3014 during the month, the average participation throughout the
 3015 month, and the number of children served during the month.

3016 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the
 3017 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

3018 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

3019 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by
 3020 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program
 3021 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or
 3022 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

3023 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

3024 (i) The total number of children served in each provider
 3025 facility.

3026 (21) (a) ~~(20)~~ To increase transparency and accountability,
 3027 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting
 3028 with one or more of the following persons or business entities
 3029 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned
 3030 by the following persons:

3031 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.
 3032 1002.83(4);

3033 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient
 3034 entity;

3035 3. A coalition employee; or

3036 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c), of any
 3037 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~
 3038 ~~employee of the coalition.~~

3039 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the
 3040 approval of the department ~~office~~. Such contracts, as well as
 3041 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the
 3042 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the
 3043 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of
 3044 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who
 3045 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit
 3046 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under
 3047 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~
 3048 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~
 3049 ~~112.3143(1)(c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~
 3050 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the

3051 department office but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of
3052 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be
3053 reported to the department office within 30 days after approval.
3054 If a contract cannot be approved by the department office, a
3055 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be
3056 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to
3057 the disapproved contract.

3058 Section 53. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended
3059 to read:

3060 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

3061 (1) The department office shall adopt rules prescribing
3062 the standardized format and required content of school readiness
3063 program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified
3064 entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in
3065 this part.

3066 (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a
3067 school readiness program plan to the department office before
3068 the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its
3069 school readiness program plan until it receives approval from
3070 the department office. A coalition may not implement any
3071 revision to its school readiness program plan until the
3072 coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from
3073 the department office. If the department office rejects a plan
3074 or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its
3075 previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not

3076 | limited to:

3077 | (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership

3078 | and business organization, and the coalition's articles of

3079 | incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a

3080 | corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation

3081 | or other business entity, the plan must include the contract

3082 | with a fiscal agent.

3083 | (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care

3084 | level.

3085 | (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the

3086 | requirements of this part, including:

3087 | 1. Single point of entry.

3088 | 2. Uniform waiting list.

3089 | 3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local

3090 | eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.

3091 | 4. Parent access and choice.

3092 | 5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver

3093 | or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~

3094 | ~~1002.84(8)~~.

3095 | 6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as

3096 | applicable.

3097 | 7. Payment rate schedule.

3098 | 8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the

3099 | results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

3100 | (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality

3101 activities and services, including, but not limited to:
 3102 1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.
 3103 2. Infant and toddler early learning.
 3104 3. Inclusive early learning programs.
 3105 4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching
 3106 practices and increase child outcomes.

3107 (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures
 3108 for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level
 3109 of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all
 3110 estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a
 3111 listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted
 3112 subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or
 3113 hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan
 3114 outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed
 3115 capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

3116 (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the
 3117 department ~~office~~, of all revenues and expenditures during the
 3118 previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be
 3119 identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~
 3120 categories: state and federal funds and, local matching funds,
 3121 ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

3122 (g) Updated policies and procedures, including those
 3123 governing procurement, maintenance of tangible personal
 3124 property, maintenance of records, information technology
 3125 security, and disbursement controls.

3126 (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school
3127 readiness program providers, including in response to a parental
3128 complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.
3129 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool
3130 adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to be
3131 high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial
3132 findings of violations of law shall be monitored more
3133 frequently.

3134 (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and
3135 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness
3136 program plan from the local community.

3137 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or
3138 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider
3139 capacity using available community data.

3140 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as
3141 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by
3142 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on
3143 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

3144 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the
3145 standardized format and required content of school readiness
3146 program plans on its website.

3147 (5) The department ~~office~~ shall collect and report data on
3148 coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall
3149 include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress
3150 towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the

3151 percentage of children served by the program as compared to the
3152 number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of
3153 children served compared to total number of children under the
3154 age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level,
3155 provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance
3156 and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and
3157 kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary
3158 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness
3159 program upon entry into kindergarten. The department ~~office~~
3160 shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness
3161 program providers before finalizing the format and data to be
3162 used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,
3163 and results of the report must be included in the annual report
3164 under s. 1002.82.

3165 Section 54. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),
3166 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section
3167 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is
3168 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

3169 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;
3170 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

3171 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness
3172 program, a school readiness program provider must:

3173 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a
3174 family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a
3175 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a

3176 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.
3177 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from
3178 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school
3179 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development
3180 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and
3181 operates on a military installation that is certified by the
3182 United States Department of Defense, ~~or~~ an informal child care
3183 provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and
3184 Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States
3185 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.
3186 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license
3187 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program
3188 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

3189 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-
3190 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child
3191 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant
3192 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to
3193 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an
3194 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with
3195 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to
3196 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and
3197 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

3198 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and
3199 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate
3200 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness

3201 program.

3202 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.
3203 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as
3204 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

3205 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care
3206 home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the
3207 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this
3208 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this
3209 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the
3210 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist
3211 adopted by the department ~~office~~ prominently on its premises in
3212 plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit
3213 the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

3214 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a
3215 national accrediting body and operates on a military
3216 installation that is certified by the United States Department
3217 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual
3218 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense
3219 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3220 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.
3221 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of
3222 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the
3223 department ~~office~~.

3224 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the
3225 department ~~office~~ that meets the child development standards.

3226 (m) For a provider that is not an informal provider,
3227 maintain general liability insurance and provide the coalition
3228 with written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
3229 including coverage for transportation of children if school
3230 readiness program children are transported by the provider. A
3231 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that
3232 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a
3233 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
3234 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
3235 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder
3236 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the
3237 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written
3238 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general
3239 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in
3240 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider
3241 contract with the coalition.

3242 (n) For a provider that is an informal provider, comply
3243 with the provisions of paragraph (m) or maintain homeowner's
3244 liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If an
3245 informal provider chooses to maintain a homeowner's policy, the
3246 provider must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy
3247 that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence
3248 and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The
3249 department ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as
3250 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a

3251 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An
3252 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of
3253 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or
3254 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by
3255 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the
3256 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.

3257 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is
3258 a state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.
3259 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional
3260 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to
3261 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall
3262 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.
3263 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program
3264 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates
3265 on a military installation that is certified by the United
3266 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate
3267 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the
3268 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3269 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract
3270 adopted by the department ~~office~~.

3271 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has
3272 been granted under s. 1002.84(8).

3273 (3) The department ~~office~~ and the coalitions may not:

3274 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or
3275 early childhood education provider that does not deliver

3276 services under the school readiness program or receive state or
 3277 federal funds under this part;

3278 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program
 3279 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or
 3280 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or
 3281 part V of this chapter; or

3282 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or
 3283 postassessment.

3284 Section 55. Subsections (3) through (7) of section
 3285 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)
 3286 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present
 3287 subsections (3), and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3288 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3289 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~
 3290 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~
 3291 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3292 (2)(3) All instructions to early learning coalitions for
 3293 administering this section shall emanate from the department
 3294 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

3295 (5)(6) Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for
 3296 the efficient and effective administration of the school
 3297 readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being
 3298 direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5
 3299 percent of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~
 3300 may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent

3301 of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be
 3302 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative
 3303 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3304 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.
 3305 98.52, which shall include monitoring providers using the
 3306 standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve
 3307 compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant
 3308 to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted
 3309 under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3310 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as
 3311 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.51, which shall be limited to the
 3312 following:

3313 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and
 3314 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related
 3315 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents
 3316 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified
 3317 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

3318 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to
 3319 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist
 3320 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program
 3321 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care
 3322 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate
 3323 curricula and related classroom resources that support
 3324 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued
 3325 professional development and training. Any grants awarded

3326 | pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and
 3327 | 287.058.

3328 | 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial
 3329 | support to school readiness program providers, staff, and
 3330 | parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child
 3331 | development research and best practices, developmentally
 3332 | appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child
 3333 | interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and
 3334 | safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the
 3335 | recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,
 3336 | prevention, and reporting.

3337 | 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
 3338 | activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
 3339 | for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
 3340 | requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for
 3341 | infant and toddler care.

3342 | 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and
 3343 | enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as
 3344 | described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3345 | 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
 3346 | parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
 3347 | to school readiness program children.

3348 | (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office
 3349 | of Management and Budget instructions are those services not
 3350 | defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are

3351 required to administer the school readiness program. Such
 3352 services include, but are not limited to:

- 3353 1. Assisting families to complete the required application
- 3354 and eligibility documentation.
- 3355 2. Determining child and family eligibility.
- 3356 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
- 3357 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.
- 3358 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care
- 3359 information system.

3360
 3361 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does
 3362 not include payments to school readiness program providers for
 3363 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.
 3364 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or
 3365 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3366 Section 56. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection
 3367 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,
 3368 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3369 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness
 3370 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3371 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for
 3372 the adoption of a market rate schedule. The schedule must
 3373 include, at a minimum, county-by-county rates:

3374 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum
 3375 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality

3376 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting
 3377 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
 3378 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3379 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not
 3380 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3381 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3382 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not
 3383 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality
 3384 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its
 3385 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
 3386 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.
 3387 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure
 3388 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from
 3389 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal
 3390 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home
 3391 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed
 3392 or registered under s. 402.313.

3393 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an
 3394 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.
 3395 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
 3396 ~~average~~ market rate and include the projected number of
 3397 children to be served by each county and be submitted for
 3398 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care
 3399 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of
 3400 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3401 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more
3402 qualified entities to administer this section and provide
3403 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3404 (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing
3405 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market
3406 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by
3407 program care level and provider type in a predetermined
3408 geographic market, and the publication of the market rate
3409 schedule.

3410 Section 57. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended
3411 to read:

3412 1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;
3413 penalties.—

3414 (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an
3415 intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a
3416 person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or
3417 misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that
3418 person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the
3419 commission of such an act. The term includes any act that
3420 constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3421 (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,
3422 the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning
3423 coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness
3424 program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
3425 determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own

3426 | inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~
3427 | has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has
3428 | engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall
3429 | investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred
3430 | due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the
3431 | department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic
3432 | benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who
3433 | may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the
3434 | disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits
3435 | authorizations to recipients.

3436 | (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the
3437 | department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the
3438 | investigation to the Department of Financial Services for
3439 | criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable
3440 | coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the
3441 | department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of
3442 | Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3443 | (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a
3444 | provider from participation in the school readiness program or
3445 | the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has
3446 | reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed
3447 | fraud. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt by rule appropriate due
3448 | process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply
3449 | in suspending or terminating any provider, including the
3450 | suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider

3451 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation
3452 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,
3453 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent
3454 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3455 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary
3456 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,
3457 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,
3458 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of
3459 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or
3460 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been
3461 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3462 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3463 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall
3464 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that
3465 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition
3466 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,
3467 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider
3468 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3469 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3470 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3471 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise
3472 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation
3473 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate
3474 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,
3475 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems

3476 appropriate.

3477 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a
 3478 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten
 3479 Education Program provider who is on the United States
 3480 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In
 3481 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that
 3482 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the
 3483 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified
 3484 List.

3485 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-
 3486 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of
 3487 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and
 3488 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary
 3489 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan
 3490 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~
 3491 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,
 3492 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud
 3493 plan must include, at a minimum:

3494 (a) A written description or chart outlining the
 3495 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are
 3496 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible
 3497 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3498 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting
 3499 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3500 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the

3501 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to
 3502 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3503 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for
 3504 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent
 3505 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3506 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the
 3507 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department
 3508 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness
 3509 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a
 3510 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes
 3511 has committed fraud.

3512 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in
 3513 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.
 3514 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3515 Section 58. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),
 3516 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida
 3517 Statutes, are amended to read:

3518 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
 3519 referral.—

3520 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the
 3521 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care
 3522 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides
 3523 referrals to families for child care and information on
 3524 available community resources. Preference shall be given to
 3525 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and

3526 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply
3527 with the requirements to offer the resource information
3528 component or does not want to offer that service, the early
3529 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency
3530 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement
3531 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

3532 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency
3533 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or
3534 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3535 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral
3536 services offered through child care resource and referral
3537 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at
3538 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents
3539 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff
3540 training requirements.

3541 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall
3542 provide the following services:

3543 (a) Identification of existing public and private child
3544 care and early childhood education services, including child
3545 care services by public and private employers, and the
3546 development of an early learning provider performance profile ~~a~~
3547 ~~resource file~~ of those services through the single statewide
3548 information system developed by the department ~~office~~ under s.
3549 1002.82(2)(q) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services may include
3550 family day care, public and private child care programs, the

3551 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the
3552 school readiness program, special education programs for
3553 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for
3554 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-
3555 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and
3556 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~
3557 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The
3558 early learning provider performance profile resource file shall
3559 include, but not be limited to:

- 3560 1. Type of program.
- 3561 2. Hours of service.
- 3562 3. Ages of children served.
- 3563 4. Number of children served.
- 3564 5. Program information.
- 3565 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 3566 7. Availability of transportation.
- 3567 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if
3568 applicable.
- 3569 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
- 3570 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
3571 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68
3572 that must consist of the program assessment composite score,
3573 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,
3574 if applicable.
- 3575 11. The school readiness program assessment composite

3576 score and program assessment care level composite scores
 3577 delineated by infant classroom, toddler classroom, and preschool
 3578 classroom results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

3579 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,
 3580 if applicable.

3581 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a
 3582 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the
 3583 curriculum, if applicable.

3584 14. Participation in the school readiness child assessment
 3585 under s. 1002.82.

3586 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for
 3587 service tabulated through the internal referral process through
 3588 the single statewide information system. The following
 3589 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the
 3590 child care resource and referral network:

3591 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource
 3592 information and referral network component by type of service
 3593 requested.

3594 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3595 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3596 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and
 3597 swing shift.

3598 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3599 6. Customer satisfaction survey data required under s.
 3600 1002.82(3) ~~Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~

3601 ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

3602 (d) Assistance to families that connects them to parent
 3603 education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,
 3604 or social services programs that support families with children,
 3605 and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~
 3606 ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~
 3607 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

3608 1. ~~Information on initiating new child care services,~~
 3609 ~~zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in~~
 3610 ~~finding such information from other sources.~~

3611 2. ~~Information and resources which help existing child~~
 3612 ~~care services providers to maximize their ability to serve~~
 3613 ~~children and parents in their community.~~

3614 3. ~~Information and incentives that may help existing or~~
 3615 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~
 3616 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~
 3617 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~
 3618 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~
 3619 ~~businesses.~~

3620 Section 59. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida
 3621 Statutes, is amended to read:

3622 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

3623 (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning
 3624 coalition to establish school readiness program transportation
 3625 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are

3626 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to
3627 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the
3628 provision of transportation services as required by this
3629 section.

3630 Section 60. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is
3631 repealed.

3632 Section 61. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended
3633 to read:

3634 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
3635 scholarship program.—

3636 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the
3637 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps
3638 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational
3639 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood
3640 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care
3641 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and
3642 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child
3643 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the
3644 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood
3645 education.

3646 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3647 as necessary to administer this section.

3648 Section 62. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,
3649 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3650 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

3651 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department
3652 ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants
3653 to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs
3654 through Early Head Start program federal grants. The
3655 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds
3656 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been
3657 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3658 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for
3659 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the
3660 administration of the collaboration grants program under this
3661 section.

3662 Section 63. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection
3663 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3664 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness
3665 program.—

3666 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the
3667 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an
3668 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are
3669 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
3670 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records
3671 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
3672 observations, and personal identifying information.

3673 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3674 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early
3675 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of

3676 | the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department
 3677 | ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness
 3678 | program.

3679 |
 3680 | Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school
 3681 | readiness program records in order to carry out their official
 3682 | functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit
 3683 | the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school
 3684 | readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than
 3685 | those authorized to receive the records.

3686 | Section 64. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,
 3687 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3688 | 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards
 3689 | and career pathways.—

3690 | (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3691 | (a) Develop early learning professional development
 3692 | training and course standards to be utilized for school
 3693 | readiness program providers.

3694 | (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning
 3695 | career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications
 3696 | that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized
 3697 | professional development that:

- 3698 | 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.
- 3699 | 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core
- 3700 | competencies.

3701 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based
 3702 stackable credentials and certifications.

3703 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten
 3704 readiness and early grade success.

3705 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
 3706 to administer this section.

3707 Section 65. Subsection (3) of section 1003.575, Florida
 3708 Statutes, is amended to read:

3709 1003.575 Assistive technology devices; findings;
 3710 interagency agreements.—Accessibility, utilization, and
 3711 coordination of appropriate assistive technology devices and
 3712 services are essential as a young person with disabilities moves
 3713 from early intervention to preschool, from preschool to school,
 3714 from one school to another, from school to employment or
 3715 independent living, and from school to home and community. If an
 3716 individual education plan team makes a recommendation in
 3717 accordance with State Board of Education rule for a student with
 3718 a disability, as defined in s. 1003.01(3), to receive an
 3719 assistive technology assessment, that assessment must be
 3720 completed within 60 school days after the team's recommendation.
 3721 To ensure that an assistive technology device issued to a young
 3722 person as part of his or her individualized family support plan,
 3723 individual support plan, individualized plan for employment, or
 3724 individual education plan remains with the individual through
 3725 such transitions, the following agencies shall enter into

3726 interagency agreements, as appropriate, to ensure the
 3727 transaction of assistive technology devices:

3728 (3) The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 3729 administered by the Department of Education ~~and the Office of~~
 3730 ~~Early Learning.~~

3731
 3732 Interagency agreements entered into pursuant to this section
 3733 shall provide a framework for ensuring that young persons with
 3734 disabilities and their families, educators, and employers are
 3735 informed about the utilization and coordination of assistive
 3736 technology devices and services that may assist in meeting
 3737 transition needs, and shall establish a mechanism by which a
 3738 young person or his or her parent may request that an assistive
 3739 technology device remain with the young person as he or she
 3740 moves through the continuum from home to school to postschool.

3741 Section 66. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3742 to read:

3743 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of
 3744 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;
 3745 Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

3746 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate
 3747 articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20
 3748 ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening
 3749 relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,
 3750 between public and private organizations, and between the

3751 education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The
3752 purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these
3753 relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective
3754 progression and transfer of students within the education system
3755 and to allow students to proceed toward their educational
3756 objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The
3757 Legislature further intends that articulation policies and
3758 budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of
3759 the Department of Education and postsecondary educational
3760 institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts
3761 of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3762 (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the
3763 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall
3764 collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from
3765 statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner
3766 of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System
3767 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The
3768 policies shall relate to:

3769 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one
3770 education system and the admissions requirements of another
3771 education system into which students typically transfer.

3772 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of
3773 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course
3774 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such
3775 institutions.

3776 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education
3777 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public
3778 postsecondary educational institutions.

3779 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3780 (e) Articulation agreements.

3781 (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
3782 the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish
3783 the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make
3784 recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and
3785 issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data
3786 maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established
3787 pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education
3788 Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the
3789 Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members
3790 each representing the State University System, the Florida
3791 College System, public career and technical education, K-12
3792 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member
3793 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the
3794 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
3795 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3796 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of
3797 one education system and the admissions requirements of another
3798 education system into which students typically transfer and make
3799 recommendations for improvement.

3800 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements

3801 between and among public schools, career and technical education
3802 centers, Florida College System institutions, state
3803 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3804 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high
3805 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State
3806 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3807 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement
3808 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3809 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,
3810 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit
3811 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions
3812 participating in the statewide course numbering system and
3813 identify instances of student transfer and admissions
3814 difficulties.

3815 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common
3816 general education and common degree program prerequisite
3817 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified
3818 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3819 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide
3820 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
3821 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and
3822 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,
3823 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3824 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public
3825 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide

3826 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant
3827 to s. 1006.735.

3828 Section 67. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is
3829 created to read:

3830 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3831 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
3832 Program through grade 3.—

3833 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and
3834 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary
3835 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide
3836 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate
3837 grade-level standards and to provide information on their
3838 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program
3839 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten
3840 Education Program providers and school districts to improve
3841 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning
3842 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and
3843 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,
3844 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure
3845 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress
3846 monitoring program must:

3847 (a) Assess the progress of students in the Voluntary
3848 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the
3849 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and
3850 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.

3851 | 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.

3852 | (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary
3853 | Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3854 | (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each
3855 | student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on
3856 | each kindergarten students progress monitoring results within
3857 | the first 30 days of enrollment in accordance with paragraph
3858 | (2)(a). The methodology for determining a student's readiness
3859 | for kindergarten shall be developed by the same independent
3860 | expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

3861 | (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
3862 | students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3863 | through grade 3.

3864 | (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to
3865 | provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.
3866 | 1008.25(4).

3867 | (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular
3868 | standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state
3869 | levels.

3870 | (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and
3871 | development of educational programs and policies.

3872 | (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a
3873 | statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress
3874 | monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics
3875 | skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards

3876 established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, respectively. The
3877 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must
3878 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures
3879 equivalent levels of growth; be a developmentally appropriate,
3880 valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to capture data
3881 on students who may be performing below grade or developmental
3882 level and which may enable the identification of early
3883 indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays; accurately
3884 measure the core content in the applicable grade level
3885 standards; document learning gains for the achievement of these
3886 standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring
3887 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction
3888 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated
3889 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all
3890 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
3891 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The
3892 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be
3893 implemented beginning in the 2021-2022 school year for students
3894 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
3895 kindergarten students, as follows:

3896 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3897 program shall be administered within the first 30 days after
3898 enrollment, midyear, and within the last 30 days of the program
3899 or school year, in accordance with the rules adopted by the
3900 State Board of Education. The state board may adopt alternate

3901 timeframes to address nontraditional school year calendars or
 3902 summer programs to ensure administration of the coordinated
 3903 screening and progress monitoring program is administered a
 3904 minimum of 3 times within a year or program.

3905 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress
 3906 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in
 3907 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and
 3908 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3909 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3910 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Early Grade
 3911 Success Advisory Committee, for implementing the coordinated
 3912 screening and progress monitoring program in consideration of
 3913 timelines for implementing new early literacy and mathematics
 3914 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards
 3915 established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3916 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to
 3917 the Early Grade Success Advisory Committee.

3918 (4) The Early Grade Success Advisory Committee, a
 3919 committee as defined in s. 20.03, is created within the
 3920 Department of Education to oversee the coordinated screening and
 3921 progress monitoring program and, except as otherwise provided in
 3922 this section, shall operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3923 (a) The committee shall be responsible for reviewing the
 3924 implementation of, training for, and outcomes from the
 3925 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program to provide

3926 recommendations to the department that supports grade 3 students
3927 reading at or above grade level. The committee, at a minimum,
3928 shall:

3929 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the
3930 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including
3931 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria
3932 before being published.

3933 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

3934 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and
3935 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated
3936 screening and progress monitoring program.

3937 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a
3938 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under
3939 s. 1002.68.

3940 5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.
3941 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a
3942 child's kindergarten readiness.

3943 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade
3944 level that a student would need to attain in order to
3945 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

3946 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of
3947 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for
3948 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3949 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department
3950 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read

- 3951 | at or above grade level.
- 3952 | (b) The committee shall be composed of 17 members who are
3953 | residents of the state and appointed, as follows:
- 3954 | 1. Fifteen members appointed by the Commissioner of
3955 | Education:
- 3956 | a. One representative from the Department of Education.
3957 | b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.
3958 | c. One representative of an urban school district.
3959 | d. One representative of a rural school district.
3960 | e. One representative of an urban early learning
3961 | coalition.
- 3962 | f. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.
3963 | g. One representative of an early learning provider.
3964 | h. One representative of a faith-based early learning
3965 | provider.
- 3966 | i. One representative who is a kindergarten teacher who
3967 | has at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3968 | j. One representative who is a second grade teacher with
3969 | at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3970 | k. One representative who is a school principal.
- 3971 | l. Four representatives with subject matter expertise in
3972 | early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The
3973 | four representatives with subject matter expertise may not be
3974 | direct stakeholders within the early learning or public school
3975 | systems or potential recipients of a contract resulting from the

3976 committee's recommendations.

3977 2. One senator who is appointed by and serves at the
3978 pleasure of the President of the Senate.

3979 3. One representative who is appointed by and serves at
3980 the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3981 (5) The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair, one
3982 of whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in
3983 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments, and
3984 one of whom must be a senator or representative. Members of the
3985 committee shall serve without compensation but are entitled to
3986 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
3987 112.061.

3988 (6) The committee must meet at least biennially and may
3989 meet by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible,
3990 to reduce costs.

3991 (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3992 (8) The committee terminates on July 1, 2023.

3993 Section 68. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of
3994 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
3995 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of
3996 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection
3997 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection
3998 (5) of that section, to read:

3999 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
4000 support; reporting requirements.—

4001 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—
4002 (b) Any Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
4003 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy
4004 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and
4005 based upon the results of the administration of the final
4006 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125
4007 shall be referred to the local school district and may be
4008 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before
4009 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading
4010 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's
4011 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with
4012 s. 1011.62(9).

4013 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—
4014 (b) The district school board may only exempt students
4015 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c)
4016 ~~(5)(b)~~, for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4
4017 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading
4018 instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic
4019 information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of
4020 each student so promoted. The school district shall assist
4021 schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit,
4022 systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and
4023 intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause
4024 exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving
4025 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause

4026 exemptions are limited to the following:

4027 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less
4028 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other
4029 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a
4030 school in the United States.

4031 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education
4032 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment
4033 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of
4034 s. 1008.212.

4035 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of
4036 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English
4037 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of
4038 Education.

4039 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio
4040 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the
4041 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

4042 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,
4043 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an
4044 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects
4045 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading
4046 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still
4047 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in
4048 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

4049 6. Students who have received intensive reading
4050 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a

4051 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in
 4052 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2
 4053 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

4054 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE
 4055 STUDENTS.—

4056 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must
 4057 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the
 4058 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student
 4059 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must
 4060 include:

4061 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory
 4062 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
 4063 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by
 4064 the school district.

4065 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading
 4066 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention
 4067 strategies under subparagraph 1.

4068 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading
 4069 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention
 4070 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

- 4071 a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social
- 4072 studies within the 90-minute block.
- 4073 b. Small group instruction.
- 4074 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.
- 4075 d. More frequent progress monitoring.

4076 e. Tutoring or mentoring.

4077 f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade
4078 students.

4079 g. Extended school day, week, or year.

4080 (b) Each school district shall:

4081 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student
4082 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her
4083 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion
4084 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause
4085 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must
4086 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a
4087 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be
4088 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of
4089 reading deficiency.

4090 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a
4091 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can
4092 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent
4093 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,
4094 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,
4095 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.
4096 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student
4097 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative
4098 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of
4099 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the
4100 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels

4101 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning
4102 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education
4103 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation
4104 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate
4105 grade 4 level reading skills.

4106 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph
4107 (5)(c) ~~(5)(b)~~, including students participating in the school
4108 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a
4109 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's
4110 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,
4111 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4112 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive
4113 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3
4114 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade
4115 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the
4116 following:

4117 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of
4118 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the
4119 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core
4120 subject areas through content-rich texts.

4121 b. Small group instruction.

4122 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4123 d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory
4124 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,
4125 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language

4126 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating
 4127 student reading achievement within the same school year.

4128 e. A read-at-home plan.

4129 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4130 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5)(c)
 4131 ~~(5)(b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the
 4132 parent of each student the progress of the student toward
 4133 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in
 4134 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.
 4135 The district school board must report to the parent the
 4136 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.
 4137 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the
 4138 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and
 4139 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided
 4140 under paragraph (5)(a), and other relevant information. Progress
 4141 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format
 4142 adopted by the district school board.

4143 Section 69. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended
 4144 to read:

4145 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
 4146 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,
 4147 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

4148 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the
 4149 Legislature that:

4150 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to

4151 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20
4152 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following
4153 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4154 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it
4155 invests in education?

4156 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
4157 education system educating its students?

4158 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors
4159 promoting student achievement?

4160 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education
4161 institutions performing their responsibility to educate their
4162 students as measured by how students are performing and how much
4163 they are learning?

4164 (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance
4165 accountability system be established as a single, unified
4166 accountability system with multiple components, including, but
4167 not limited to, student performance in public schools and school
4168 and district grades.

4169 (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system
4170 comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of
4171 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with
4172 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4173 (d) The early learning accountability system comply with
4174 the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the
4175 requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust

4176 Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4177 (e)~~(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of
4178 Governors of the State University System recommend to the
4179 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature
4180 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the
4181 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with
4182 information on what the public is receiving in return for the
4183 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20
4184 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4185 (f)1.~~(e)1.~~ The State Board of Education establish
4186 performance measures and set performance standards for
4187 individual public schools and Florida College System
4188 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on
4189 student achievement.

4190 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System
4191 establish performance measures and set performance standards for
4192 individual state universities, including actual completion
4193 rates.

4194 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4195 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
4196 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all
4197 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them
4198 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through
4199 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,
4200 and communities.

4201 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific
 4202 standards and measures must be:

- 4203 1. Focused on student success.
- 4204 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 4205 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 4206 4. Measurable over time.
- 4207 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 4208 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to
- 4209 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4210 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an
 4211 accountability system that measures student progress toward the
 4212 following goals:

- 4213 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence
- 4214 of student learning gains at all levels.
- 4215 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured
- 4216 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted
- 4217 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4218 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured
- 4219 by evidence of employment and earnings.
- 4220 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of
- 4221 return on investment.
- 4222 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4223 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide
 4224 data required to implement education performance accountability
 4225 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education

4226 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality
 4227 and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to
 4228 the department all data within the State University Database
 4229 System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data
 4230 warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such
 4231 data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual
 4232 and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college
 4233 readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions
 4234 shall annually provide data from the prior year to the
 4235 educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse in a format based on data
 4236 elements identified by the commissioner.

4237 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational
 4238 institutions shall maintain information systems that will
 4239 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of
 4240 the State University System, and the Legislature with
 4241 information and reports necessary to address the specifications
 4242 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and
 4243 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June
 4244 30, 2001.

4245 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in
 4246 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
 4247 Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the
 4248 prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format
 4249 prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data
 4250 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer

4251 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and
 4252 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each
 4253 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph
 4254 shall report the data to the department.

4255 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
 4256 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and
 4257 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to
 4258 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the
 4259 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the
 4260 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators
 4261 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary
 4262 educational institutions.

4263 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data
 4264 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing
 4265 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize
 4266 paperwork.

4267 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 4268 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
 4269 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data
 4270 warehouse.

4271 Section 70. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended
 4272 to read:

4273 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement
 4274 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the
 4275 performance of early learning coalitions, district school

4276 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of
 4277 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school
 4278 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees
 4279 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state
 4280 board rule.

4281 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board
 4282 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to
 4283 request and receive information, data, and reports from early
 4284 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College
 4285 System institutions. Early Learning Coalition chief executive
 4286 officers or executive directors, district school
 4287 superintendents, and Florida College System institution
 4288 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information
 4289 and data reported to the state board.

4290 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate
 4291 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and
 4292 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report
 4293 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education
 4294 which shall require the early learning coalition, district
 4295 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
 4296 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4297 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the
 4298 State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General
 4299 that an early learning coalition, a district school board, or
 4300 Florida College System institution is acting without statutory

4301 authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of
 4302 Education shall require the early learning coalition, district
 4303 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
 4304 trustees to document compliance with such law.

4305 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school
 4306 board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees
 4307 cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of
 4308 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4309 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an
 4310 early learning coalition, a district school board, or Florida
 4311 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or
 4312 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the
 4313 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to
 4314 initiate any of the following actions:

4315 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning
 4316 coalition, school district, or Florida College System
 4317 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state
 4318 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4319 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary
 4320 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds
 4321 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until
 4322 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida
 4323 College System institution complies with the law or state board
 4324 rule.

4325 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,

4326 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive
 4327 grants.

4328 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation
 4329 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4330 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a
 4331 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or
 4332 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4333 Section 71. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 4334 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4335 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4336 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a
 4337 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.
 4338 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the
 4339 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school
 4340 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the
 4341 accountability requirements of the state school system and may
 4342 impose state requirements on school districts in order to
 4343 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and
 4344 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early
 4345 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal
 4346 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility
 4347 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of
 4348 Education.

4349 Section 72. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida
 4350 Statutes, is amended to read:

4351 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
4352 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
4353 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
4354 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
4355 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
4356 follows:

4357 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4358 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is
4359 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students
4360 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who
4361 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4362 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
4363 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the
4364 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year
4365 average of the state reading assessment data must use the
4366 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour
4367 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in
4368 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the
4369 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a
4370 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English
4371 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may
4372 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional
4373 student education centers may not be included in the 300
4374 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this
4375 additional hour shall include: research-based reading

4376 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of
4377 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated
4378 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,
4379 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading
4380 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop
4381 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and
4382 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided
4383 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of
4384 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text
4385 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4386 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading
4387 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district
4388 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each
4389 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount
4390 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any
4391 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school
4392 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of
4393 K-12 base funding.

4394 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to
4395 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to
4396 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who
4397 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4398 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
4399 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4400 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive

4401 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing
4402 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have
4403 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in
4404 paragraph (a).

4405 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based reading
4406 ~~intervention teachers to provide~~ intensive reading interventions
4407 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during
4408 the school day and in the required extra hour for students
4409 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4410 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically
4411 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on
4412 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading
4413 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas
4414 based on student need.

4415 4. Professional development for school district teachers
4416 in scientifically based reading instruction, including
4417 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an
4418 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school
4419 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in
4420 reading.

4421 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other
4422 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading
4423 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in
4424 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading
4425 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, and

4426 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the
 4427 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and
 4428 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early
 4429 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 4430 Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4431 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based
 4432 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~
 4433 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just
 4434 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4435 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in
 4436 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having
 4437 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as
 4438 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts
 4439 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial
 4440 deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary
 4441 Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4442 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
 4443 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~
 4444 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
 4445 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by
 4446 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
 4447 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
 4448 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
 4449 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
 4450 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach

4451 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may
4452 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School
4453 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing
4454 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading
4455 intervention through innovative methods, including career
4456 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from
4457 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,
4458 and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through
4459 integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-
4460 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher
4461 who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must
4462 incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just
4463 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than
4464 July 1 annually, the department shall release the school
4465 district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts
4466 having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent
4467 of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have
4468 been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold
4469 funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation
4470 funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The
4471 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each
4472 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting
4473 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.
4474 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its
4475 findings to the Legislature.

4476 2. Each school district that has a school designated as
4477 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified
4478 in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the
4479 comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the
4480 comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and
4481 reading intervention strategies that will be used for the
4482 required additional hour of reading instruction. The term
4483 "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies
4484 frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also
4485 includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use
4486 of technology that targets specific reading skills and
4487 abilities.

4488
4489 For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means
4490 demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving
4491 student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4492 Section 73. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of
4493 \$3,088,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General
4494 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement the
4495 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program required
4496 by s. 1008.2125, Florida Statutes. Of these funds, \$3 million
4497 shall be placed in reserve. The department is authorized to
4498 submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds
4499 pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes. The budget amendment
4500 shall include a detailed operational work plan and spending

4501 plan. The department shall submit quarterly updates to the plans
4502 and quarterly project status reports to the Governor's Office of
4503 Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on
4504 Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations
4505 Committee. Each status report must include progress made to date
4506 for each project activity, planned and actual tasks and
4507 deliverable completion dates, planned and actual costs incurred,
4508 and any current issues and risks.

4509 Section 74. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of
4510 \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General
4511 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to issue a
4512 competitive solicitation to contract with an independent third
4513 party consulting firm to conduct a review of the school
4514 readiness payment rates by county, by provider type, as defined
4515 in s. 1002.88, Florida Statutes, and by care level, as defined
4516 in s. 402.305, Florida Statutes. The review shall include an
4517 evaluation of the current methodology for establishing the
4518 market rate schedule pursuant to s. 1002.895, Florida Statutes,
4519 the current school readiness payment rates, and the impact of
4520 the approved pay differentials authorized under part VI of
4521 chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, on the payment rates. The review
4522 shall include recommendations on a methodology for setting the
4523 payment rates by county, by provider type, and by care level
4524 that takes into consideration the impact that local ordinances
4525 may have on the market rate if such ordinances require more

4526 stringent staff-to-child ratios than required in s. 402.305(4),
4527 Florida Statutes, but may not consider school readiness wait
4528 lists as a factor. The department shall submit the results of
4529 the review and the recommendations to the Governor's Office of
4530 Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on
4531 Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations
4532 Committee by January 1, 2021.

4533 Section 75. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of
4534 \$677,759 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General
4535 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to assist in the
4536 implementation of s. 1002.68(2), Florida Statutes.

4537 Section 76. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
4538 law.