

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

26 | for the department to consult certain entities for  
27 | specified purposes; providing requirements for certain  
28 | providers to maintain Gold Seal Quality Care status;  
29 | providing exemptions to certain ad valorem taxes;  
30 | providing rate differentials to certain providers;  
31 | providing for a type two transfer of the Gold Seal  
32 | Quality Care program in the Department of Children and  
33 | Families to the Department of Education; providing for  
34 | the continuation of certain contracts and interagency  
35 | agreements; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; 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 or designation as required by s.  
2247 1002.68 of the high-quality professional development  
2248 opportunities developed or 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 adopted by the department to be used  
2599 with each school readiness program provider, with standardized  
2600 attachments by provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall



2601 | publish a copy of the standard statewide provider contract on  
2602 | its website. The standard statewide contract shall include, at a  
2603 | minimum, contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the  
2604 | Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R.  
2605 | parts 98 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable;  
2606 | program assessment requirements; and provisions for provider  
2607 | probation, termination for cause, and emergency termination for  
2608 | those actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate  
2609 | and 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 beginning in fiscal year 2021-  
2734 2022 and be distributed to:

2735 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the  
2736 completion of a referral inquiry.

2737 2. Annually to parents at the time of eligibility  
2738 determination.

2739 3. Child care providers that participate in the school  
2740 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2741 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider  
2742 contract.

2743 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

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

2751 action, an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction  
2752 survey results do not improve above the 60 percent threshold,  
2753 the department may contract out or merge the coalition.

2754 (4)~~(3)~~ If the department ~~office~~ determines during the  
2755 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring  
2756 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an  
2757 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its  
2758 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and  
2759 outcome measures adopted by the department ~~office~~, or has not  
2760 effectively administered the school readiness program or  
2761 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the department  
2762 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer  
2763 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a  
2764 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and  
2765 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or  
2766 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or  
2767 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is  
2768 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board  
2769 ~~office~~.

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

2776 | which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2777 |        ~~(6)~~~~(4)~~ The department ~~office~~ may request the Governor to  
 2778 | apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head  
 2779 | Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness  
 2780 | program.

2781 |        ~~(7)~~~~(5)~~ By January 1 of each year, the department ~~office~~  
 2782 | shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities  
 2783 | conducted under this section. The report must include a summary  
 2784 | of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the  
 2785 | following:

2786 |           (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout  
 2787 | the state, including the school readiness program and the  
 2788 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2789 |           1. The total and average number of children served in the  
 2790 | school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility  
 2791 | priority category, and coalition, and the total number of  
 2792 | children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 2793 | Program.

2794 |           2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,  
 2795 | including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of  
 2796 | expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,  
 2797 | nondirect services, and direct services for children.

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



2801 ~~1002.89(6)(b).~~

2802 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to  
2803 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2804 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early  
2805 learning programs.

2806 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and  
2807 the reason for disenrollment.

2808 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2809 8. The number of school readiness program providers who  
2810 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph  
2811 (2)(n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum  
2812 program assessment composite score ~~threshold~~ for contracting  
2813 established under paragraph (2)(n); and the number of providers  
2814 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the  
2815 program assessment under paragraph (2)(n).

2816 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the  
2817 reasons for revocation.

2818 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the  
2819 single statewide information system established in subsection  
2820 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child  
2821 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2822 ~~(8)(a)(6)(a)~~ Parental choice of child care providers,  
2823 including private and faith-based providers, shall be  
2824 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with  
2825 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2826 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment  
 2827 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45  
 2828 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

2829 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with  
 2830 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment  
 2831 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,  
 2832 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment  
 2833 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the  
 2834 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must  
 2835 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized  
 2836 representative of the provider.

2837 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash  
 2838 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for  
 2839 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or  
 2840 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of  
 2841 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2842 (9)~~(7)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does  
 2843 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,  
 2844 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional  
 2845 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the  
 2846 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

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

2851 subsections (5), (11), and (13) are amended, and a new  
 2852 subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

2853 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2854 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions  
 2855 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services  
 2856 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67  
 2857 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for  
 2858 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program  
 2859 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2860 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other  
 2861 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the  
 2862 ~~same~~ qualifications of a ~~as~~ private sector business member  
 2863 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (6) ~~(5)~~. In  
 2864 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of  
 2865 Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early  
 2866 learning coalition board membership.

2867 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the  
 2868 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
 2869 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
 2870 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
 2871 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
 2872 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of  
 2873 such members may serve as a voting member:

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

2876 applicable.

2877 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care  
2878 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing  
2879 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

2880 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2881 (5) If members of the board are found to be  
2882 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition  
2883 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate  
2884 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership  
2885 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

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

2901 readiness program.

2902 (12)~~(11)~~ Each early learning coalition shall establish  
2903 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must  
2904 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4  
2905 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~  
2906 ~~in conjunction with their membership on the Early Learning~~  
2907 ~~Advisory Council pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may  
2908 serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs  
2909 in an appointed position, the coalition must advertise the  
2910 vacancy.

2911 (14)~~(13)~~ Each early learning coalition shall complete an  
2912 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive  
2913 director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the  
2914 department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the  
2915 commissioner by June 30 of each year. ~~use a coordinated~~  
2916 ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~  
2917 ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~  
2918 ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~  
2919 ~~adopted by the office.~~

2920 Section 52. Subsections (7) through (20) of section  
2921 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)  
2922 through (21), respectively, subsections (1), (2), and (4) and  
2923 present subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20)  
2924 of that section are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added  
2925 to that section, to read:

2926 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
 2927 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2928 (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program  
 2929 of school readiness program services in accordance with this  
 2930 part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which  
 2931 enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of  
 2932 children to achieve the performance standards.

2933 (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible  
 2934 children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program  
 2935 in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
 2936 ~~office~~.

2937 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the  
 2938 department ~~office~~ pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.  
 2939 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical  
 2940 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and  
 2941 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,  
 2942 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care  
 2943 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve  
 2944 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2945 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that  
 2946 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by  
 2947 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the  
 2948 performance standards adopted by the department.

2949 ~~(8)-(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87  
 2950 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child

2951 eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must  
2952 document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school  
2953 readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by  
2954 the department ~~office~~.

2955 (9)~~(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides  
2956 for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families  
2957 receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~  
2958 ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~  
2959 ~~a case-by-case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child  
2960 or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's  
2961 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose  
2962 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits  
2963 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in  
2964 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency  
2965 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the  
2966 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in  
2967 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may  
2968 not transfer school readiness program services to another school  
2969 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted  
2970 documentation from the current school readiness program provider  
2971 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has  
2972 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2973 (16)~~(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in  
2974 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental  
2975 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.

2976 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring  
2977 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to  
2978 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial  
2979 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local  
2980 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers  
2981 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored  
2982 biennially.

2983 (17)~~(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all  
2984 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The  
2985 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
2986 ~~average~~ market rate, include the projected number of children to  
2987 be served, and be submitted for approval by the department  
2988 ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed at  
2989 not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day  
2990 care home.

2991 (18)~~(17)~~ Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the  
2992 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and  
2993 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school  
2994 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2995 Program services and submit the plan to the department ~~office~~  
2996 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

2997 (19)~~(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual  
2998 report to the department ~~office~~. The report shall conform to the  
2999 format adopted by the department ~~office~~ and must include:

3000 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,



3001 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~  
 3002 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds,~~ and other local revenues  
 3003 available to the coalition.

3004 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including  
 3005 total expenditures for administrative activities, quality  
 3006 activities, nondirect services, and direct services for  
 3007 children.

3008 (c) The total number of coalition staff and the related  
 3009 expenditures for salaries and benefits. For any subcontracts,  
 3010 the total number of contracted staff and the related  
 3011 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

3012 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness  
 3013 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility  
 3014 priority category, reported as the number of children served  
 3015 during the month, the average participation throughout the  
 3016 month, and the number of children served during the month.

3017 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the  
 3018 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

3019 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

3020 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by  
 3021 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program  
 3022 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or  
 3023 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

3024 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

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

3026 facility.

3027 (21) (a) ~~(20)~~ To increase transparency and accountability,

3028 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting

3029 with one or more of the following persons or business entities

3030 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned

3031 by the following persons:

3032 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.

3033 1002.83(4);

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

3035 entity;

3036 3. A coalition employee; or

3037 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c), of any

3038 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~

3039 ~~employee of the coalition.~~

3040 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the

3041 approval of the department ~~office~~. Such contracts, as well as

3042 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the

3043 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the

3044 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of

3045 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who

3046 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit

3047 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under

3048 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~

3049 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~

3050 ~~112.3143(1)(c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~

3051 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the  
3052 department ~~office~~ but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of  
3053 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be  
3054 reported to the department ~~office~~ within 30 days after approval.  
3055 If a contract cannot be approved by the department ~~office~~, a  
3056 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be  
3057 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to  
3058 the disapproved contract.

3059 Section 53. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3060 to read:

3061 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

3062 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules prescribing  
3063 the standardized format and required content of school readiness  
3064 program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified  
3065 entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in  
3066 this part.

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

3076 | previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not  
 3077 | limited to:

3078 |       (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership  
 3079 | and business organization, and the coalition's articles of  
 3080 | incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a  
 3081 | corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation  
 3082 | or other business entity, the plan must include the contract  
 3083 | with a fiscal agent.

3084 |       (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care  
 3085 | level.

3086 |       (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the  
 3087 | requirements of this part, including:

- 3088 |           1. Single point of entry.
- 3089 |           2. Uniform waiting list.
- 3090 |           3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local  
 3091 | eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.
- 3092 |           4. Parent access and choice.
- 3093 |           5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver  
 3094 | or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~  
 3095 | ~~1002.84(8)~~.
- 3096 |           6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as  
 3097 | applicable.
- 3098 |           7. Payment rate schedule.
- 3099 |           8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the  
 3100 | results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

3101 (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality  
 3102 activities and services, including, but not limited to:  
 3103 1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.  
 3104 2. Infant and toddler early learning.  
 3105 3. Inclusive early learning programs.  
 3106 4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching  
 3107 practices and increase child outcomes.

3108 (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures  
 3109 for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level  
 3110 of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all  
 3111 estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a  
 3112 listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted  
 3113 subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or  
 3114 hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan  
 3115 outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed  
 3116 capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

3117 (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the  
 3118 department ~~office~~, of all revenues and expenditures during the  
 3119 previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be  
 3120 identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~  
 3121 categories: state and federal funds and ~~and~~ local matching funds ~~and~~  
 3122 ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

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

3126 security, and disbursement controls.

3127 (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school  
3128 readiness program providers, including in response to a parental  
3129 complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.  
3130 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool  
3131 adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to be  
3132 high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial  
3133 findings of violations of law shall be monitored more  
3134 frequently.

3135 (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and  
3136 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness  
3137 program plan from the local community.

3138 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or  
3139 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider  
3140 capacity using available community data.

3141 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as  
3142 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by  
3143 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on  
3144 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

3145 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the  
3146 standardized format and required content of school readiness  
3147 program plans on its website.

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

3151 towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the  
3152 percentage of children served by the program as compared to the  
3153 number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of  
3154 children served compared to total number of children under the  
3155 age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level,  
3156 provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance  
3157 and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and  
3158 kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary  
3159 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness  
3160 program upon entry into kindergarten. The department ~~office~~  
3161 shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness  
3162 program providers before finalizing the format and data to be  
3163 used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,  
3164 and results of the report must be included in the annual report  
3165 under s. 1002.82.

3166 Section 54. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),  
3167 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section  
3168 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is  
3169 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

3170 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;  
3171 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

3172 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness  
3173 program, a school readiness program provider must:

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

3176 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a  
3177 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.  
3178 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from  
3179 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school  
3180 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development  
3181 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and  
3182 operates on a military installation that is certified by the  
3183 United States Department of Defense, ~~or~~ an informal child care  
3184 provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and  
3185 Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States  
3186 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.  
3187 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license  
3188 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program  
3189 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

3190 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-  
3191 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child  
3192 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant  
3193 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to  
3194 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an  
3195 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with  
3196 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to  
3197 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and  
3198 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

3199 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and  
3200 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate



3201 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness  
3202 program.

3203 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.  
3204 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as  
3205 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

3206 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care  
3207 home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the  
3208 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this  
3209 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this  
3210 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the  
3211 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist  
3212 adopted by the department ~~office~~ prominently on its premises in  
3213 plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit  
3214 the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

3215 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a  
3216 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
3217 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
3218 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual  
3219 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense  
3220 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3221 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.  
3222 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of  
3223 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the  
3224 department ~~office~~.

3225 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the

3226 | department ~~office~~ that meets the child development standards.

3227 |       (m) For a provider that is not an informal provider,  
3228 | maintain general liability insurance and provide the coalition  
3229 | with written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,  
3230 | including coverage for transportation of children if school  
3231 | readiness program children are transported by the provider. A  
3232 | provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that  
3233 | provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a  
3234 | minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department  
3235 | ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.  
3236 | A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder  
3237 | and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the  
3238 | coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written  
3239 | notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general  
3240 | liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in  
3241 | full force and effect for the entire period of the provider  
3242 | contract with the coalition.

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

3251 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a  
3252 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An  
3253 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of  
3254 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or  
3255 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by  
3256 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the  
3257 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.

3258 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is  
3259 a state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.  
3260 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional  
3261 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to  
3262 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall  
3263 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.  
3264 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program  
3265 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates  
3266 on a military installation that is certified by the United  
3267 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate  
3268 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the  
3269 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3270 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract  
3271 adopted by the department ~~office~~.

3272 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has  
3273 been granted under s. 1002.84(8).

3274 (3) The department ~~office~~ and the coalitions may not:

3275 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or

3276 early childhood education provider that does not deliver  
 3277 services under the school readiness program or receive state or  
 3278 federal funds under this part;

3279 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program  
 3280 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or  
 3281 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or  
 3282 part V of this chapter; or

3283 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or  
 3284 postassessment.

3285 Section 55. Subsections (3) through (7) of section  
 3286 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)  
 3287 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present  
 3288 subsections (3), and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3289 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3290 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~  
 3291 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~  
 3292 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3293 (2)~~(3)~~ All instructions to early learning coalitions for  
 3294 administering this section shall emanate from the department  
 3295 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

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

3301 may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent  
3302 of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be  
3303 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative  
3304 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3305 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.  
3306 98.52, which shall include monitoring providers using the  
3307 standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve  
3308 compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant  
3309 to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted  
3310 under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3311 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as  
3312 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.51, which shall be limited to the  
3313 following:

3314 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and  
3315 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related  
3316 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents  
3317 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified  
3318 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

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

3326 professional development and training. Any grants awarded  
3327 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and  
3328 287.058.

3329 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial  
3330 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and  
3331 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child  
3332 development research and best practices, developmentally  
3333 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child  
3334 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and  
3335 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the  
3336 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,  
3337 prevention, and reporting.

3338 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the  
3339 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding  
3340 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal  
3341 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for  
3342 infant and toddler care.

3343 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and  
3344 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as  
3345 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3346 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and  
3347 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings  
3348 to school readiness program children.

3349 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office  
3350 of Management and Budget instructions are those services not

3351 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are  
3352 required to administer the school readiness program. Such  
3353 services include, but are not limited to:

- 3354 1. Assisting families to complete the required application  
3355 and eligibility documentation.
- 3356 2. Determining child and family eligibility.
- 3357 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
- 3358 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.
- 3359 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care  
3360 information system.

3361

3362 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does  
3363 not include payments to school readiness program providers for  
3364 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.  
3365 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or  
3366 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3367 Section 56. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection  
3368 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,  
3369 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3370 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness  
3371 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3372 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for  
3373 the adoption of a market rate schedule. The schedule must  
3374 include, at a minimum, county-by-county rates:

3375 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum

3376 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality  
3377 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting  
3378 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
3379 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3380 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not  
3381 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3382 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3383 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not  
3384 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality  
3385 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its  
3386 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
3387 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.  
3388 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure  
3389 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from  
3390 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal  
3391 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home  
3392 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed  
3393 or registered under s. 402.313.

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



3401 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3402 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more  
 3403 qualified entities to administer this section and provide  
 3404 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3405 (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing  
 3406 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market  
 3407 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by  
 3408 program care level and provider type in a predetermined  
 3409 geographic market, and the publication of the market rate  
 3410 schedule.

3411 Section 57. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 3412 to read:

3413 1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;  
 3414 penalties.—

3415 (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an  
 3416 intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a  
 3417 person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or  
 3418 misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that  
 3419 person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the  
 3420 commission of such an act. The term includes any act that  
 3421 constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3422 (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,  
 3423 the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning  
 3424 coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness  
 3425 program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to

3426 determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own  
3427 inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~  
3428 has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has  
3429 engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall  
3430 investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred  
3431 due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the  
3432 department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic  
3433 benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who  
3434 may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the  
3435 disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits  
3436 authorizations to recipients.

3437 (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the  
3438 department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the  
3439 investigation to the Department of Financial Services for  
3440 criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable  
3441 coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the  
3442 department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of  
3443 Financial Services for criminal investigation.

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

3451 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider  
3452 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation  
3453 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,  
3454 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent  
3455 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3456 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary  
3457 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,  
3458 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,  
3459 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of  
3460 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or  
3461 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been  
3462 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo  
3463 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance  
3464 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall  
3465 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that  
3466 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition  
3467 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,  
3468 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider  
3469 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo  
3470 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance  
3471 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

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

3476 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems  
3477 appropriate.

3478 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a  
3479 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3480 Education Program provider who is on the United States  
3481 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In  
3482 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that  
3483 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the  
3484 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified  
3485 List.

3486 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-  
3487 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of  
3488 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and  
3489 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary  
3490 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan  
3491 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~  
3492 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,  
3493 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud  
3494 plan must include, at a minimum:

3495 (a) A written description or chart outlining the  
3496 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are  
3497 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible  
3498 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3499 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting  
3500 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3501 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the  
 3502 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to  
 3503 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3504 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for  
 3505 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent  
 3506 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3507 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the  
 3508 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department  
 3509 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness  
 3510 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a  
 3511 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes  
 3512 has committed fraud.

3513 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in  
 3514 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.  
 3515 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3516 Section 58. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),  
 3517 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida  
 3518 Statutes, are amended to read:

3519 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
 3520 referral.—

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

3526 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and  
3527 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply  
3528 with the requirements to offer the resource information  
3529 component or does not want to offer that service, the early  
3530 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency  
3531 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement  
3532 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

3533 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency  
3534 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or  
3535 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3536 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral  
3537 services offered through child care resource and referral  
3538 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at  
3539 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents  
3540 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff  
3541 training requirements.

3542 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall  
3543 provide the following services:

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

3551 family day care, public and private child care programs, the  
3552 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the  
3553 school readiness program, special education programs for  
3554 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for  
3555 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-  
3556 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and  
3557 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~  
3558 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The  
3559 early learning provider performance profile resource file shall  
3560 include, but not be limited to:

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

3576 11. The school readiness program assessment composite  
3577 score and program assessment care level composite score results  
3578 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and  
3579 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

3580 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,  
3581 if applicable.

3582 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a  
3583 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the  
3584 curriculum, if applicable.

3585 14. Participation in the school readiness child assessment  
3586 under s. 1002.82.

3587 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for  
3588 service tabulated through the internal referral process through  
3589 the single statewide information system. The following  
3590 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the  
3591 child care resource and referral network:

3592 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource  
3593 information and referral network component by type of service  
3594 requested.

3595 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3596 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3597 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and  
3598 swing shift.

3599 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3600 6. Customer satisfaction survey data required under s.



3601 1002.82(3) ~~Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~  
3602 ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

3603 (d) Assistance to families that connects them to parent  
3604 education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,  
3605 or social services programs that support families with children,  
3606 and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~  
3607 ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~  
3608 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

3609 1. ~~Information on initiating new child care services,~~  
3610 ~~zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in~~  
3611 ~~finding such information from other sources.~~

3612 2. ~~Information and resources which help existing child~~  
3613 ~~care services providers to maximize their ability to serve~~  
3614 ~~children and parents in their community.~~

3615 3. ~~Information and incentives that may help existing or~~  
3616 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~  
3617 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~  
3618 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~  
3619 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~  
3620 ~~businesses.~~

3621 Section 59. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida  
3622 Statutes, is amended to read:

3623 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.-

3624 (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning  
3625 coalition to establish school readiness program transportation

3626 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are  
3627 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to  
3628 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the  
3629 provision of transportation services as required by this  
3630 section.

3631 Section 60. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is  
3632 repealed.

3633 Section 61. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3634 to read:

3635 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)  
3636 scholarship program.—

3637 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the  
3638 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps  
3639 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational  
3640 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood  
3641 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care  
3642 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and  
3643 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child  
3644 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the  
3645 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood  
3646 education.

3647 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3648 as necessary to administer this section.

3649 Section 62. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,  
3650 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3651 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

3652 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department  
 3653 ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants  
 3654 to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs  
 3655 through Early Head Start program federal grants. The  
 3656 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds  
 3657 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been  
 3658 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3659 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for  
 3660 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the  
 3661 administration of the collaboration grants program under this  
 3662 section.

3663 Section 63. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection  
 3664 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3665 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness  
 3666 program.—

3667 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the  
 3668 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an  
 3669 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are  
 3670 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
 3671 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records  
 3672 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher  
 3673 observations, and personal identifying information.

3674 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3675 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early

3676 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of  
3677 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department  
3678 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness  
3679 program.

3680  
3681 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school  
3682 readiness program records in order to carry out their official  
3683 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit  
3684 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school  
3685 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than  
3686 those authorized to receive the records.

3687 Section 64. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,  
3688 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3689 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards  
3690 and career pathways.—

3691 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3692 (a) Develop early learning professional development  
3693 training and course standards to be utilized for school  
3694 readiness program providers.

3695 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning  
3696 career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications  
3697 that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized  
3698 professional development that:

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

3701 competencies.

3702 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based  
3703 stackable credentials and certifications.

3704 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten  
3705 readiness and early grade success.

3706 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3707 to administer this section.

3708 Section 65. Subsection (3) of section 1003.575, Florida  
3709 Statutes, is amended to read:

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

3726 such transitions, the following agencies shall enter into  
3727 interagency agreements, as appropriate, to ensure the  
3728 transaction of assistive technology devices:

3729 (3) The Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
3730 administered by the Department of Education ~~and the Office of~~  
3731 ~~Early Learning~~.

3732  
3733 Interagency agreements entered into pursuant to this section  
3734 shall provide a framework for ensuring that young persons with  
3735 disabilities and their families, educators, and employers are  
3736 informed about the utilization and coordination of assistive  
3737 technology devices and services that may assist in meeting  
3738 transition needs, and shall establish a mechanism by which a  
3739 young person or his or her parent may request that an assistive  
3740 technology device remain with the young person as he or she  
3741 moves through the continuum from home to school to postschool.

3742 Section 66. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3743 to read:

3744 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of  
3745 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;  
3746 Articulation Coordinating Committee.-

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

3751 between public and private organizations, and between the  
3752 education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The  
3753 purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these  
3754 relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective  
3755 progression and transfer of students within the education system  
3756 and to allow students to proceed toward their educational  
3757 objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The  
3758 Legislature further intends that articulation policies and  
3759 budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of  
3760 the Department of Education and postsecondary educational  
3761 institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts  
3762 of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3763 (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the  
3764 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall  
3765 collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from  
3766 statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner  
3767 of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System  
3768 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The  
3769 policies shall relate to:

3770 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one  
3771 education system and the admissions requirements of another  
3772 education system into which students typically transfer.

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

3776 institutions.

3777 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education  
3778 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public  
3779 postsecondary educational institutions.

3780 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3781 (e) Articulation agreements.

3782 (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with  
3783 the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish  
3784 the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make  
3785 recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and  
3786 issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data  
3787 maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established  
3788 pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education  
3789 Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the  
3790 Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members  
3791 each representing the State University System, the Florida  
3792 College System, public career and technical education, K-12  
3793 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member  
3794 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the  
3795 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide  
3796 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3797 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of  
3798 one education system and the admissions requirements of another  
3799 education system into which students typically transfer and make  
3800 recommendations for improvement.



3801 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements  
3802 between and among public schools, career and technical education  
3803 centers, Florida College System institutions, state  
3804 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3805 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high  
3806 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State  
3807 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3808 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement  
3809 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3810 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,  
3811 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit  
3812 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions  
3813 participating in the statewide course numbering system and  
3814 identify instances of student transfer and admissions  
3815 difficulties.

3816 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common  
3817 general education and common degree program prerequisite  
3818 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified  
3819 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3820 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide  
3821 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
3822 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and  
3823 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,  
3824 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3825 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public

3826 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide  
3827 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant  
3828 to s. 1006.735.

3829 Section 67. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is  
3830 created to read:

3831 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3832 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
3833 Program through grade 3.—

3834 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and  
3835 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary  
3836 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide  
3837 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate  
3838 grade-level standards and to provide information on their  
3839 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program  
3840 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3841 Education Program providers and school districts to improve  
3842 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning  
3843 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and  
3844 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,  
3845 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure  
3846 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress  
3847 monitoring program must:

3848 (a) Assess the progress of students in the Voluntary  
3849 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the  
3850 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and

3851 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.  
3852 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.

3853 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary  
3854 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3855 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each  
3856 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on  
3857 each kindergarten students progress monitoring results within  
3858 the first 30 days of enrollment in accordance with paragraph  
3859 (2)(a). The methodology for determining a student's readiness  
3860 for kindergarten shall be developed by the same independent  
3861 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

3862 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of  
3863 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
3864 through grade 3.

3865 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to  
3866 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.  
3867 1008.25(4).

3868 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular  
3869 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state  
3870 levels.

3871 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and  
3872 development of educational programs and policies.

3873 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a  
3874 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress  
3875 monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics

3876 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards  
3877 established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, respectively. The  
3878 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must  
3879 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures  
3880 equivalent levels of growth; be a developmentally appropriate,  
3881 valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to capture data  
3882 on students who may be performing below grade or developmental  
3883 level and which may enable the identification of early  
3884 indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays; accurately  
3885 measure the core content in the applicable grade level  
3886 standards; document learning gains for the achievement of these  
3887 standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring  
3888 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction  
3889 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated  
3890 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all  
3891 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and  
3892 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The  
3893 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be  
3894 implemented beginning in the 2021-2022 school year for students  
3895 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and  
3896 kindergarten students, as follows:

3897 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3898 program shall be administered within the first 30 days after  
3899 enrollment, midyear, and within the last 30 days of the program  
3900 or school year, in accordance with the rules adopted by the

3901 State Board of Education. The state board may adopt alternate  
3902 timeframes to address nontraditional school year calendars or  
3903 summer programs to ensure administration of the coordinated  
3904 screening and progress monitoring program is administered a  
3905 minimum of 3 times within a year or program.

3906 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress  
3907 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in  
3908 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and  
3909 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3910 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3911 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Early Grade  
3912 Success Advisory Committee, for implementing the coordinated  
3913 screening and progress monitoring program in consideration of  
3914 timelines for implementing new early literacy and mathematics  
3915 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards  
3916 established in ss. 1002.67(1) (a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3917 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to  
3918 the Early Grade Success Advisory Committee.

3919 (4) The Early Grade Success Advisory Committee, a  
3920 committee as defined in s. 20.03, is created within the  
3921 Department of Education to oversee the coordinated screening and  
3922 progress monitoring program and, except as otherwise provided in  
3923 this section, shall operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3924 (a) The committee shall be responsible for reviewing the  
3925 implementation of, training for, and outcomes from the

3926 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program to provide  
3927 recommendations to the department that supports grade 3 students  
3928 reading at or above grade level. The committee, at a minimum,  
3929 shall:

3930 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the  
3931 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including  
3932 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria  
3933 before being published.

3934 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

3935 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and  
3936 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated  
3937 screening and progress monitoring program.

3938 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a  
3939 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under  
3940 s. 1002.68.

3941 5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.  
3942 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a  
3943 child's kindergarten readiness.

3944 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade  
3945 level that a student would need to attain in order to  
3946 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

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

3951 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read  
3952 at or above grade level.

3953 (b) The committee shall be composed of 17 members who are  
3954 residents of the state and appointed, as follows:

3955 1. Fifteen members appointed by the Commissioner of  
3956 Education:

3957 a. One representative from the Department of Education.

3958 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.

3959 c. One representative of an urban school district.

3960 d. One representative of a rural school district.

3961 e. One representative of an urban early learning

3962 coalition.

3963 f. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.

3964 g. One representative of an early learning provider.

3965 h. One representative of a faith-based early learning  
3966 provider.

3967 i. One representative who is a kindergarten teacher who  
3968 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.

3969 j. One representative who is a second grade teacher with  
3970 at least 5 years of teaching experience.

3971 k. One representative who is a school principal.

3972 l. Four representatives with subject matter expertise in  
3973 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The  
3974 four representatives with subject matter expertise may not be  
3975 direct stakeholders within the early learning or public school

3976 systems or potential recipients of a contract resulting from the  
3977 committee's recommendations.

3978 2. One senator who is appointed by and serves at the  
3979 pleasure of the President of the Senate.

3980 3. One representative who is appointed by and serves at  
3981 the pleasure of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

3982 (5) The committee shall elect a chair and vice chair, one  
3983 of whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in  
3984 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments, and  
3985 one of whom must be a senator or representative. Members of the  
3986 committee shall serve without compensation but are entitled to  
3987 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.  
3988 112.061.

3989 (6) The committee must meet at least biannually and may  
3990 meet by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible,  
3991 to reduce costs.

3992 (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3993 (8) The committee terminates on July 1, 2023.

3994 Section 68. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of  
3995 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
3996 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of  
3997 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection  
3998 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection  
3999 (5) of that section, to read:

4000 1008.25 Public school student progression; student



4001 support; reporting requirements.—

4002 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

4003 (b) Any Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
4004 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy  
4005 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and  
4006 based upon the results of the administration of the final  
4007 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125  
4008 shall be referred to the local school district and may be  
4009 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before  
4010 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading  
4011 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's  
4012 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with  
4013 s. 1011.62(9).

4014 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

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

4026 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause  
4027 exemptions are limited to the following:

4028 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less  
4029 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other  
4030 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a  
4031 school in the United States.

4032 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education  
4033 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment  
4034 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of  
4035 s. 1008.212.

4036 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of  
4037 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English  
4038 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of  
4039 Education.

4040 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio  
4041 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the  
4042 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

4043 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,  
4044 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an  
4045 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects  
4046 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading  
4047 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still  
4048 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in  
4049 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

4050 6. Students who have received intensive reading

4051 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a  
4052 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in  
4053 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2  
4054 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

4055 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE  
4056 STUDENTS.—

4057 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must  
4058 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the  
4059 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student  
4060 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must  
4061 include:

4062 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
4063 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,  
4064 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by  
4065 the school district.

4066 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading  
4067 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention  
4068 strategies under subparagraph 1.

4069 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading  
4070 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention  
4071 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

4072 a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social  
4073 studies within the 90-minute block.

4074 b. Small group instruction.

4075 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4076           d. More frequent progress monitoring.

4077           e. Tutoring or mentoring.

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

4079 students.

4080           g. Extended school day, week, or year.

4081           (b) Each school district shall:

4082           1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student

4083 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her

4084 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion

4085 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause

4086 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must

4087 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a

4088 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be

4089 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of

4090 reading deficiency.

4091           2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a

4092 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can

4093 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent

4094 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,

4095 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,

4096 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.

4097 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student

4098 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative

4099 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of

4100 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the

4101 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels  
4102 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning  
4103 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
4104 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation  
4105 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate  
4106 grade 4 level reading skills.

4107 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph  
4108 (5)(c) ~~(5)(b)~~, including students participating in the school  
4109 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a  
4110 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's  
4111 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,  
4112 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4113 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive  
4114 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3  
4115 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade  
4116 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the  
4117 following:

4118 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of  
4119 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the  
4120 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core  
4121 subject areas through content-rich texts.

4122 b. Small group instruction.

4123 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4124 d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
4125 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,

4126 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language  
4127 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating  
4128 student reading achievement within the same school year.

4129 e. A read-at-home plan.

4130 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4131 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5) (c)  
4132 ~~(5) (b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the  
4133 parent of each student the progress of the student toward  
4134 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in  
4135 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.  
4136 The district school board must report to the parent the  
4137 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.  
4138 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the  
4139 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and  
4140 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided  
4141 under paragraph (5) (a), and other relevant information. Progress  
4142 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format  
4143 adopted by the district school board.

4144 Section 69. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended  
4145 to read:

4146 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
4147 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,  
4148 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

4149 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the  
4150 Legislature that:

4151 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to  
4152 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20  
4153 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following  
4154 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4155 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it  
4156 invests in education?

4157 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
4158 education system educating its students?

4159 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors  
4160 promoting student achievement?

4161 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education  
4162 institutions performing their responsibility to educate their  
4163 students as measured by how students are performing and how much  
4164 they are learning?

4165 (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance  
4166 accountability system be established as a single, unified  
4167 accountability system with multiple components, including, but  
4168 not limited to, student performance in public schools and school  
4169 and district grades.

4170 (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system  
4171 comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of  
4172 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with  
4173 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4174 (d) The early learning accountability system comply with  
4175 the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the

4176 requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust  
 4177 Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4178 (e)-(d) The State Board of Education and the Board of  
 4179 Governors of the State University System recommend to the  
 4180 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature  
 4181 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the  
 4182 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with  
 4183 information on what the public is receiving in return for the  
 4184 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20  
 4185 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4186 (f)1.-(e)1. The State Board of Education establish  
 4187 performance measures and set performance standards for  
 4188 individual public schools and Florida College System  
 4189 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on  
 4190 student achievement.

4191 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System  
 4192 establish performance measures and set performance standards for  
 4193 individual state universities, including actual completion  
 4194 rates.

4195 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4196 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
 4197 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all  
 4198 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them  
 4199 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through  
 4200 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,



4201 and communities.

4202 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific  
4203 standards and measures must be:

- 4204 1. Focused on student success.
- 4205 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 4206 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 4207 4. Measurable over time.
- 4208 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 4209 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to  
4210 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4211 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an  
4212 accountability system that measures student progress toward the  
4213 following goals:

- 4214 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence  
4215 of student learning gains at all levels.
- 4216 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured  
4217 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted  
4218 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4219 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured  
4220 by evidence of employment and earnings.
- 4221 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of  
4222 return on investment.
- 4223 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4224 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide  
4225 data required to implement education performance accountability

4226 | measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education  
4227 | shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality  
4228 | and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to  
4229 | the department all data within the State University Database  
4230 | System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data  
4231 | warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such  
4232 | data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual  
4233 | and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college  
4234 | readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions  
4235 | shall annually provide data from the prior year to the  
4236 | educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse in a format based on data  
4237 | elements identified by the commissioner.

4238 |         (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational  
4239 | institutions shall maintain information systems that will  
4240 | provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of  
4241 | the State University System, and the Legislature with  
4242 | information and reports necessary to address the specifications  
4243 | of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and  
4244 | quality must be no less than that which was available as of June  
4245 | 30, 2001.

4246 |         (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in  
4247 | the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education  
4248 | Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the  
4249 | prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format  
4250 | prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data

4251 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer  
 4252 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and  
 4253 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each  
 4254 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph  
 4255 shall report the data to the department.

4256 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the  
 4257 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and  
 4258 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to  
 4259 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the  
 4260 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the  
 4261 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators  
 4262 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary  
 4263 educational institutions.

4264 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data  
 4265 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing  
 4266 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize  
 4267 paperwork.

4268 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
 4269 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
 4270 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data  
 4271 warehouse.

4272 Section 70. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 4273 to read:

4274 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement  
 4275 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the

4276 performance of early learning coalitions, district school  
4277 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of  
4278 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school  
4279 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees  
4280 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state  
4281 board rule.

4282 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board  
4283 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to  
4284 request and receive information, data, and reports from early  
4285 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College  
4286 System institutions. Early Learning Coalition chief executive  
4287 officers or executive directors, district school  
4288 superintendents, and Florida College System institution  
4289 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information  
4290 and data reported to the state board.

4291 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate  
4292 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and  
4293 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report  
4294 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education  
4295 which shall require the early learning coalition, district  
4296 school board, or Florida College System institution board of  
4297 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4298 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the  
4299 State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General  
4300 that an early learning coalition, a district school board, or

4301 Florida College System institution is acting without statutory  
 4302 authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of  
 4303 Education shall require the early learning coalition, district  
 4304 school board, or Florida College System institution board of  
 4305 trustees to document compliance with such law.

4306 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school  
 4307 board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees  
 4308 cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of  
 4309 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4310 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an  
 4311 early learning coalition, a district school board, or Florida  
 4312 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or  
 4313 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the  
 4314 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to  
 4315 initiate any of the following actions:

4316 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning  
 4317 coalition, school district, or Florida College System  
 4318 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state  
 4319 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4320 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary  
 4321 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds  
 4322 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until  
 4323 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida  
 4324 College System institution complies with the law or state board  
 4325 rule.

4326 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,  
 4327 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive  
 4328 grants.

4329 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation  
 4330 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4331 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a  
 4332 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or  
 4333 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4334 Section 71. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
 4335 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4336 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4337 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a  
 4338 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.  
 4339 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the  
 4340 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school  
 4341 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the  
 4342 accountability requirements of the state school system and may  
 4343 impose state requirements on school districts in order to  
 4344 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and  
 4345 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early  
 4346 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal  
 4347 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility  
 4348 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of  
 4349 Education.

4350 Section 72. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida

4351 Statutes, is amended to read:

4352       1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
4353 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
4354 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
4355 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
4356 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
4357 follows:

4358       (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4359       (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is  
4360 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students  
4361 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who  
4362 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed  
4363 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
4364 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the  
4365 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year  
4366 average of the state reading assessment data must use the  
4367 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour  
4368 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in  
4369 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the  
4370 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a  
4371 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English  
4372 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may  
4373 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional  
4374 student education centers may not be included in the 300  
4375 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this

4376 additional hour shall include: research-based reading  
4377 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of  
4378 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated  
4379 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,  
4380 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading  
4381 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop  
4382 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and  
4383 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided  
4384 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of  
4385 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text  
4386 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4387 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading  
4388 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district  
4389 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each  
4390 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount  
4391 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any  
4392 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school  
4393 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of  
4394 K-12 base funding.

4395 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to  
4396 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to  
4397 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who  
4398 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed  
4399 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
4400 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:



4401           1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive  
4402 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing  
4403 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have  
4404 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in  
4405 paragraph (a).

4406           2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based ~~reading~~  
4407 ~~intervention~~ teachers to provide intensive reading interventions  
4408 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during  
4409 the school day and in the required extra hour for students  
4410 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4411           3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically  
4412 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on  
4413 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading  
4414 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas  
4415 based on student need.

4416           4. Professional development for school district teachers  
4417 in scientifically based reading instruction, including  
4418 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an  
4419 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school  
4420 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in  
4421 reading.

4422           5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other  
4423 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading  
4424 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in  
4425 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading

4426 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~  
4427 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the  
4428 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and  
4429 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early  
4430 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
4431 Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5) (b).

4432 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based  
4433 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~  
4434 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just  
4435 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4436 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in  
4437 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having  
4438 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as  
4439 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
4440 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial  
4441 deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary  
4442 Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5) (b).

4443 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of  
4444 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~  
4445 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-  
4446 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by  
4447 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,  
4448 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan  
4449 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved  
4450 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a

4451 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach  
4452 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may  
4453 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School  
4454 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing  
4455 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading  
4456 intervention through innovative methods, including career  
4457 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from  
4458 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,  
4459 and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through  
4460 integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-  
4461 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher  
4462 who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must  
4463 incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just  
4464 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than  
4465 July 1 annually, the department shall release the school  
4466 district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts  
4467 having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent  
4468 of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have  
4469 been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold  
4470 funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation  
4471 funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The  
4472 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each  
4473 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting  
4474 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.  
4475 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its

4476 findings to the Legislature.

4477         2. Each school district that has a school designated as  
4478 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified  
4479 in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the  
4480 comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the  
4481 comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and  
4482 reading intervention strategies that will be used for the  
4483 required additional hour of reading instruction. The term  
4484 "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies  
4485 frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also  
4486 includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use  
4487 of technology that targets specific reading skills and  
4488 abilities.

4489  
4490 For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means  
4491 demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving  
4492 student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4493         Section 73. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of  
4494 \$3,088,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
4495 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement the  
4496 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program required  
4497 by s. 1008.2125, Florida Statutes. Of these funds, \$3 million  
4498 shall be placed in reserve. The department is authorized to  
4499 submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds  
4500 pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes. The budget amendment

4501 shall include a detailed operational work plan and spending  
4502 plan. The department shall submit quarterly updates to the plans  
4503 and quarterly project status reports to the Governor's Office of  
4504 Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on  
4505 Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations  
4506 Committee. Each status report must include progress made to date  
4507 for each project activity, planned and actual tasks and  
4508 deliverable completion dates, planned and actual costs incurred,  
4509 and any current issues and risks.

4510 Section 74. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of  
4511 \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General  
4512 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to issue a  
4513 competitive solicitation to contract with an independent third  
4514 party consulting firm to conduct a review of the school  
4515 readiness payment rates by county, by provider type, as defined  
4516 in s. 1002.88, Florida Statutes, and by care level, as defined  
4517 in s. 402.305, Florida Statutes. The review shall include an  
4518 evaluation of the current methodology for establishing the  
4519 market rate schedule pursuant to s. 1002.895, Florida Statutes,  
4520 the current school readiness payment rates, and the impact of  
4521 the approved pay differentials authorized under part VI of  
4522 chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, on the payment rates. The review  
4523 shall include recommendations on a methodology for setting the  
4524 payment rates by county, by provider type, and by care level  
4525 that takes into consideration the impact that local ordinances

4526 may have on the market rate if such ordinances require more  
4527 stringent staff-to-child ratios than required in s. 402.305(4),  
4528 Florida Statutes, but may not consider school readiness wait  
4529 lists as a factor. The department shall submit the results of  
4530 the review and the recommendations to the Governor's Office of  
4531 Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on  
4532 Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations  
4533 Committee by January 1, 2021.

4534 Section 75. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of  
4535 \$677,759 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
4536 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to assist in the  
4537 implementation of s. 1002.68(2), Florida Statutes.

4538 Section 76. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
4539 law.