

By Senator Harrell

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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 and cross-references to changes made by the  
16      act; ss. 216.136, 383.14, 391.308, and 402.26, F.S.;  
17      conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
18      transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 402.281,  
19      F.S.; revising the requirements of the Gold Seal  
20      Quality Care program; requiring the State Board of  
21      Education to adopt specified rules; revising  
22      accrediting association requirements; providing  
23      requirements for accrediting associations; requiring  
24      the department to establish a specified process;  
25      providing requirements for such process; deleting a  
26      requirement for the department to consult certain  
27      entities for specified purposes; providing  
28      requirements for certain providers to maintain Gold  
29      Seal Quality Care status; providing exemptions to

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30 certain ad valorem taxes; providing rate differentials  
31 to certain providers; providing for a type two  
32 transfer of the Gold Seal Quality Care program in the  
33 Department of Children and Families to the Department  
34 of Education; providing for the continuation of  
35 certain contracts and interagency agreements; amending  
36 s. 402.315, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference;  
37 amending s. 402.56, F.S.; revising the membership of  
38 the Children and Youth Cabinet; amending ss. 411.227,  
39 414.295, 1000.01, 1000.02, 1000.03, 1000.04, 1000.21,  
40 1001.02, 1001.03, 1001.10, and 1001.11, F.S.;

41 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
42 repealing s. 1001.213, F.S., relating to the Office of  
43 Early Learning; amending ss. 1001.215, 1001.23,  
44 1001.70, 1001.706, F.S.; conforming provisions to  
45 changes made by the act; amending ss. 1002.22,  
46 1002.32, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending  
47 ss. 1002.34, and 1002.36, F.S.; conforming provisions  
48 and to changes made by the act; amending s. 1002.53,  
49 F.S.; revising the requirements for certain program  
50 provider profiles; requiring each parent who enrolls  
51 his or her child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
52 Education Program to allow his or her child to  
53 participate in a specified screening and progress  
54 monitoring program; amending s. 1002.55, F.S.;

55 authorizing certain child development programs  
56 operating on a military installation to be private  
57 prekindergarten providers within the Voluntary  
58 Prekindergarten Education Program; providing that a

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59 private prekindergarten provider is ineligible for  
60 participation in the program under certain  
61 circumstances; revising requirements for  
62 prekindergarten instructors; revising requirements for  
63 specified courses for prekindergarten instructors;  
64 providing that a private school administrator who  
65 holds a specified certificate meets certain credential  
66 requirements; providing liability insurance  
67 requirements for child development programs operating  
68 on a military installation participating in the  
69 program; requiring early learning coalitions to verify  
70 private prekindergarten provider compliance with  
71 specified provisions; requiring such coalitions to  
72 remove a provider from eligibility under specified  
73 circumstances; amending s. 1002.57, F.S.; revising the  
74 minimum standards for a credential for certain  
75 prekindergarten directors; amending s. 1002.59, F.S.;  
76 revising requirements for emergent literacy and  
77 performance standards training courses for  
78 prekindergarten instructors; requiring the department  
79 to make certain courses available; amending s.  
80 1002.61, F.S.; authorizing certain child development  
81 programs operating on a military installation to be  
82 private prekindergarten providers within the summer  
83 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; revising  
84 the criteria for a teacher to receive priority for the  
85 summer program in school district; requiring a child  
86 development program operating on a military  
87 installation to comply with specified criteria;

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88 requiring early learning coalitions to verify  
89 specified information; providing for the removal of a  
90 program provider or public school from eligibility  
91 under certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.63,  
92 F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to verify  
93 specified information; providing for the removal of  
94 public schools from the program under certain  
95 circumstances; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.; revising the  
96 performance standards for the Voluntary  
97 Prekindergarten Education Program; requiring the  
98 department to review and revise performance standards  
99 on a specified schedule; revising curriculum  
100 requirements for the program; requiring the department  
101 to adopt procedures for the review and approval of  
102 curricula for the program; deleting a required  
103 preassessment and postassessment for the program;  
104 creating s. 1002.68, F.S.; requiring providers of the  
105 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
106 participate in a specified screening and progress  
107 monitoring program; providing specified uses for the  
108 results of such program; requiring certain portions of  
109 the screening and progress monitoring program to be  
110 administered by individuals who meet specified  
111 criteria; requiring the results of specified  
112 assessments to be reported to the parents of  
113 participating students; providing requirements for  
114 assessments of voluntary prekindergarten education  
115 classrooms; providing department duties and  
116 responsibilities relating to such assessments;

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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; requiring an annual meeting of  
130 representatives from specified entities to develop  
131 certain strategies; repealing s. 1002.69, F.S.,  
132 relating to statewide kindergarten screening and  
133 readiness rates; amending ss. 1002.71 and 1002.72,  
134 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the  
135 act; amending s. 1002.73, F.S.; requiring the  
136 department to adopt a standard statewide provider  
137 contract; requiring such contract to be published on  
138 the department's website; providing requirements for  
139 such contract; prohibiting providers from offering  
140 services during an appeal of termination from the  
141 program; providing applicability; requiring the  
142 department to adopt specified procedures relating to  
143 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
144 providing duties of the department relating to such  
145 program; repealing s. 1002.75, F.S., relating to the

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146 powers and duties of the Office of Early Learning;  
147 amending ss. 1002.79 and 1002.81, F.S.; conforming  
148 provisions and cross-references to changes made by the  
149 act; amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; providing duties of  
150 the department relating to early learning; exempting  
151 certain child development programs operating on a  
152 military installation from specified inspection  
153 requirements; requiring the department to monitor  
154 specified standards and benchmarks for certain  
155 purposes; revising the age range used for specified  
156 standards; requiring the department to provide  
157 specified technical support; revising requirements for  
158 a specified assessment program; requiring the  
159 department to adopt requirements to make certain  
160 contracted slots available to serve specified  
161 populations; requiring the department adopt certain  
162 standards and outcome measures including specified  
163 surveys; requiring the department to adopt procedures  
164 for the merging of early learning coalitions; revising  
165 the requirements for a specified report; amending s.  
166 1002.83, F.S.; revising the number of authorized early  
167 learning coalitions; revising the number of and  
168 requirements for members of an early learning  
169 coalition; revising and adding requirements for such  
170 coalitions; amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; revising early  
171 learning coalition responsibilities and duties;  
172 revising requirements for the waiver of specified  
173 copayments; amending s. 1002.85, F.S.; revising the  
174 requirements for school readiness program plans;

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175 amending s. 1002.88, F.S.; authorizing certain child  
176 development programs operating on military  
177 installations to participate in the school readiness  
178 program; revising requirements to deliver such  
179 program; providing that a specified annual inspection  
180 for a child development program participating in the  
181 school readiness program meets certain provider  
182 requirements; providing requirements for a child  
183 development program to meet certain liability  
184 requirements; amending ss. 1002.89, 1002.895, and  
185 1002.91, F.S.; conforming provisions and cross-  
186 references to changes made by the act; amending s.  
187 1002.92, F.S.; revising the requirements for specified  
188 services that child care resources and referral  
189 agencies must provide; amending s. 1002.93, F.S.;  
190 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
191 repealing s. 1002.94, F.S., relating to the Child Care  
192 Executive Partnership Program; amending ss. 1002.95,  
193 1002.96, 1002.97, 1002.995, and 1007.01, F.S.;  
194 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
195 creating s. 1008.2125, F.S.; creating the coordinated  
196 screening and progress monitoring program within the  
197 department for specified purposes; requiring the  
198 Commissioner of Education to design such program;  
199 providing requirements for the administration of such  
200 program and the use of results from the program;  
201 providing requirements for the commissioner; creating  
202 the Council for Early Grade Success; providing duties  
203 of the council; providing membership of the council;

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204 requiring the council to elect a chair and a vice  
205 chair; providing requirements for such appointments;  
206 providing for per diem for members of the council;  
207 providing meeting requirements for the council;  
208 providing for a quorum of the council; amending s.  
209 1008.25, F.S.; authorizing certain students who  
210 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
211 Program to receive intensive reading interventions  
212 using specified funds; amending ss. 1008.31, 1008.32,  
213 and 1008.33, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes  
214 made by the act; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising  
215 the research-based reading instruction allocation to  
216 authorize the use of such funds for certain intensive  
217 reading interventions for certain students; revising  
218 the requirements for specified reading instruction and  
219 interventions; defining the term "evidence-based";  
220 providing appropriations; providing requirements for  
221 the use of such funds; providing an effective date.

222

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

224

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

227 20.055 Agency inspectors general.—

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

229 (a) "Agency head" means the Governor, a Cabinet officer, or  
230 a secretary or executive director as those terms are defined in  
231 s. 20.03, the chair of the Public Service Commission, the  
232 Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial



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233 Services Commission, the Director of the Office of Financial  
 234 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the board of  
 235 directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~  
 236 ~~executive director of the Office of Early Learning,~~ and the  
 237 Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

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

247 Section 2. Present paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection  
 248 (3) of section 20.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 249 paragraphs (d) through (k), respectively, a new paragraph (c) is  
 250 added to that subsection, and present paragraph (i) of  
 251 subsection (3) and subsection (5) of that section are amended,  
 252 to read:

253 20.15 Department of Education.—There is created a  
 254 Department of Education.

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

257 (c) Division of Early Learning.

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

260 1. ~~The Office of Early Learning, which shall be~~  
 261 ~~administered by an executive director who is fully accountable~~

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262 ~~to the Commissioner of Education. The executive director shall,~~  
263 ~~pursuant to s. 1001.213, administer the early learning programs,~~  
264 ~~including the school readiness program and the Voluntary~~  
265 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program at the state level.~~

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

269 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The State Board of Education and the  
270 Commissioner of Education shall assign to the divisions such  
271 powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are necessary  
272 to ensure the greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and  
273 effectiveness of education for students in Early Learning-20 ~~K-~~  
274 ~~20~~ education under the jurisdiction of the State Board of  
275 Education.

276 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
277 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

278 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of  
279 child abuse or neglect.—

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

285 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of  
286 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons  
287 with Disabilities, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~  
288 ~~Learning~~, or county agencies responsible for carrying out:

- 289 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 290 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;

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

303

304 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice  
305 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant  
306 to chapters 984 and 985.

307           Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section  
308 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

309           39.604 Rilya Wilson Act; short title; legislative intent;  
310 child care; early education; preschool.—

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

318           (b) If it is not in the best interest of the child for him  
319 or her to remain in his or her child care or early education

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320 setting upon entry into out-of-home care, the caregiver must  
321 work with the case manager, guardian ad litem, child care and  
322 educational staff, and educational surrogate, if one has been  
323 appointed, to determine the best setting for the child. Such  
324 setting may be a child care provider that receives a Gold Seal  
325 Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, a  
326 ~~provider participating in a quality rating system~~, a licensed  
327 child care provider, a public school provider, or a license-  
328 exempt child care provider, including religious-exempt and  
329 registered providers, and nonpublic schools.

330 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section  
331 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

338 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

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

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349 developed jointly by the Department of Education ~~Children and~~  
350 ~~Families~~, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the  
351 Financial Services Commission.

352 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section  
353 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

354 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and  
355 principals.—

356 (8) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.—

357 (b) The Division ~~Office~~ of Early Learning shall provide  
358 information on needs and waiting lists for school readiness  
359 programs, and information on the needs for the Voluntary  
360 Prekindergarten Education Program, as requested by the Early  
361 Learning Programs Estimating Conference or individual conference  
362 principals in a timely manner.

363 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraph  
364 (b) of subsection (2) of section 383.14, Florida Statutes, are  
365 amended to read:

366 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary  
367 and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.—

368 (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—To help ensure access to the  
369 maternal and child health care system, the Department of Health  
370 shall promote the screening of all newborns born in Florida for  
371 metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result  
372 in significant impairment of health or intellect, as screening  
373 programs accepted by current medical practice become available  
374 and practical in the judgment of the department. The department  
375 shall also promote the identification and screening of all  
376 newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk  
377 factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family

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378 stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other high-  
379 risk conditions associated with increased risk of infant  
380 mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention,  
381 remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited  
382 to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and  
383 case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and  
384 intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately  
385 following the birth of the child by the attending health care  
386 provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals,  
387 perinatal centers, county health departments, school health  
388 programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and  
389 reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

390 (b) *Postnatal screening.*—A risk factor analysis using the  
391 department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be  
392 conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the  
393 birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of  
394 Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for  
395 in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk  
396 assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that  
397 establish thresholds for notification, further assessment,  
398 referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or  
399 paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures  
400 for developing and using the screening instrument, notification,  
401 referral, and care coordination services, reporting  
402 requirements, management information, and maintenance of a  
403 computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which  
404 ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the  
405 provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No.  
406 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting

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407 information and maintaining a confidential registry must include  
408 a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the  
409 state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with  
410 existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The  
411 department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the  
412 screening information registry is integrated with the  
413 department's automated data systems, including the Florida On-  
414 line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests  
415 and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health  
416 Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at  
417 such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department  
418 after consultation with the Genetics and Newborn Screening  
419 Advisory Council and the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~  
420 ~~Learning~~.

421 (2) RULES.—

422 (b) After consultation with the Department of Education  
423 ~~Office of Early Learning~~, the department shall adopt and enforce  
424 rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for  
425 environmental risk factors that place children and their  
426 families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other  
427 negative outcomes.

428 Section 8. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section  
429 391.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

430 391.308 Early Steps Program.—The department shall implement  
431 and administer part C of the federal Individuals with  
432 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which shall be known as the  
433 "Early Steps Program."

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

435 (h) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, with

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436 the Medicaid program, the Department of Education program  
437 pursuant to part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
438 Education Act, and programs providing child screening such as  
439 the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, ~~the Office~~  
440 ~~of Early Learning~~, Healthy Start, and the Help Me Grow program.

441 1. Coordination with the Medicaid program shall be  
442 developed and maintained through written agreements with the  
443 Agency for Health Care Administration and Medicaid managed care  
444 organizations as well as through active and ongoing  
445 communication with these organizations. The department shall  
446 assist local program offices to negotiate agreements with  
447 Medicaid managed care organizations in the service areas of the  
448 local program offices. Such agreements may be formal or  
449 informal.

450 2. Coordination with education programs pursuant to part B  
451 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall  
452 be developed and maintained through written agreements with the  
453 Department of Education. The department shall assist local  
454 program offices to negotiate agreements with school districts in  
455 the service areas of the local program offices.

456 Section 9. Subsection (6) of section 402.26, Florida  
457 Statutes, is amended to read:

458 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

459 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~  
460 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~  
461 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~  
462 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~  
463 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~  
464 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~



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465 ~~196.198.~~

466 Section 10. Section 402.281, Florida Statutes, is  
 467 transferred, renumbered as section 1002.945, Florida Statutes,  
 468 and amended to read:

469 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

470 (1) (a) There is established within the Department of  
 471 Education the Gold Seal Quality Care program.

472 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home, or  
 473 family day care home that is accredited by an accrediting  
 474 association approved by the Department of Education under  
 475 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon  
 476 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal  
 477 Quality Care" designation.

478 (2) The State Board of Education ~~department~~ shall adopt  
 479 rules establishing Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation  
 480 standards using nationally recognized accrediting standards and  
 481 input from accrediting associations ~~based on the applicable~~  
 482 ~~accrediting standards of the National Association for the~~  
 483 ~~Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Association of~~  
 484 ~~Family Child Care, and the National Early Childhood Program~~  
 485 ~~Accreditation Commission.~~

486 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the Department of  
 487 Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
 488 program, an accrediting association must apply to the department  
 489 and demonstrate that it:

- 490 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.
- 491 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or  
 492 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state  
 493 board ~~department~~ under subsection (2).

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- 494       3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of  
495 State.
- 496       4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation  
497 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:
- 498       a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care provider  
499 must meet before beginning the accreditation process. However,  
500 accreditation may not be granted to a child care facility, large  
501 family child care home, or family day care home before the site  
502 is operational and is attended by children.
- 503       b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and  
504 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom  
505 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.
- 506       c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to ensure  
507 inter-rater reliability.
- 508       d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring  
509 each accredited child care facility, large family child care  
510 home, and family day care home to file an annual report with the  
511 accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing  
512 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family  
513 child care homes, and family day care homes.
- 514       e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to  
515 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-  
516 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by  
517 the accrediting association.
- 518       f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite  
519 verification occurring at least every 5 years.
- 520       g. A process for verifying continued accreditation  
521 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of  
522 facilities.

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523 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the  
524 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a  
525 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care program, including  
526 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and  
527 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if  
528 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

529 (b) The Department of Education shall establish a process  
530 that verifies that the accrediting association meets the  
531 provisions of paragraph (a), which must include an auditing  
532 program and any other procedures that may reasonably determine  
533 an accrediting association's compliance with this section. If an  
534 accrediting association is not in compliance and fails to cure  
535 its deficiencies within 30 days, the department shall recommend  
536 to the state board termination of the accrediting association's  
537 participation as an accrediting association in the program for a  
538 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years. If an  
539 accrediting association is removed from being an approved  
540 accrediting association, each child care provider accredited by  
541 that association shall have up to 1 year to obtain a new  
542 accreditation from a department-approved accreditation  
543 association.

544 (c) If an accrediting association has granted accreditation  
545 to a child care facility, large family child care home, or  
546 family day care under fraudulent terms or has failed to conduct  
547 onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall be  
548 liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under  
549 subsection (6).

550 ~~(b) In approving accrediting associations, the department~~  
551 ~~shall consult with the Department of Education, the Florida Head~~

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552 ~~Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child~~  
553 ~~Care Management, the Florida Family Child Care Home Association,~~  
554 ~~the Florida Children's Forum, the Florida Association for the~~  
555 ~~Education of the Young, the Child Development Education~~  
556 ~~Alliance, the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools,~~  
557 ~~the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, providers~~  
558 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents.~~

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

563 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I  
564 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and  
565 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
566 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
567 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the  
568 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
569 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

570 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or more  
571 class II violations, as defined by rule of the Department of  
572 Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its  
573 application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care  
574 provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within  
575 a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the  
576 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
577 provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

578 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for  
579 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the  
580 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and

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581 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of  
582 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
583 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
584 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to  
585 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be  
586 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal  
587 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III  
588 violations for a period of 1 year.

589 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of  
590 Education determines through a formal process that a provider  
591 has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class  
592 I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state  
593 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care  
594 status. The state board's determination regarding such  
595 provider's status is final.

596 (5) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a  
597 child care facility exempt from licensing under s. 402.316 which  
598 achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section shall be  
599 considered an educational institution for the purpose of  
600 qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s. 196.198.

601 (6) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a  
602 child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316  
603 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section and  
604 which participates in the school readiness program shall receive  
605 a minimum of a 20 percent rate differential for each enrolled  
606 school readiness child by care level and unit of child care.

607 (7)-(5) The state board ~~Department of Children and Families~~  
608 shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide  
609 criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting

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610 associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
611 program ~~and~~, conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal  
612 Quality Care providers, ~~and classifying violations.~~

613 Section 11. Type two transfer from the Department of  
614 Children and Families.-

615 (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,  
616 personnel, associated administrative support positions,  
617 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative  
618 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of  
619 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the  
620 Gold Seal Quality Care program within the Department of Children  
621 and Families are transferred by a type two transfer, as defined  
622 in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Department of  
623 Education.

624 (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing  
625 before July 1, 2021, between the Department of Children and  
626 Families, or an entity or agent of the department, and any other  
627 agency, entity, or person relating to the Gold Seal Quality Care  
628 program shall continue as a binding contract or agreement for  
629 the remainder of the term of such contract or agreement on the  
630 successor entity responsible for the program, activity, or  
631 functions relative to the contract or agreement.

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

634 402.315 Funding; license fees.-

635 (5) All moneys collected by the department for child care  
636 licensing shall be held in a trust fund of the department to be  
637 reallocated to the department during the following fiscal year  
638 to fund child care licensing activities, including the Gold Seal

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639 Quality Care program created pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~.

640 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
641 402.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

642 402.56 Children's cabinet; organization; responsibilities;  
643 annual report.—

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

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

647 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;

648 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with  
649 Disabilities;

650 4. A representative from the Division ~~The director of the~~  
651 ~~Office~~ of Early Learning;

652 5. The State Surgeon General;

653 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;

654 7. The Commissioner of Education;

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

656 9. A representative of the Office of Adoption and Child  
657 Protection;

658 10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the Governor;  
659 and

660 11. Five members who represent children and youth advocacy  
661 organizations and who are not service providers, appointed by  
662 the Governor.

663 Section 14. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)  
664 of subsection (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of  
665 section 411.227, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

666 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.—The Learning  
667 Gateway system consists of the following components:

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668 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED  
669 ACCESS.—

670 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the  
671 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies  
672 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,  
673 precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,  
674 and the service system that is available. The information should  
675 target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should  
676 be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers  
677 of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should  
678 be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a  
679 community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such  
680 as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child  
681 checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide  
682 technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in  
683 developing and distributing educational materials and  
684 information.

685 1. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of  
686 children from birth through age 5 shall be designed to provide  
687 information to public and private preschool programs, child care  
688 providers, pediatricians, parents, and local businesses and  
689 organizations. These strategies should include information on  
690 the school readiness performance standards adopted by the  
691 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

692 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of  
693 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate  
694 training materials and brochures to parents and public and  
695 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local  
696 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in



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697 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain  
698 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades  
699 K-3.

700 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.—

701 (a) In coordination with ~~the Office of Early Learning,~~ the  
702 Department of Education~~,~~ and the Florida Pediatric Society, and  
703 using information learned from the local demonstration projects,  
704 the Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall establish  
705 guidelines for screening children from birth through age 9. The  
706 guidelines should incorporate recent research on the indicators  
707 most likely to predict early learning problems, mild  
708 developmental delays, child-specific precursors of school  
709 failure, and other related developmental indicators in the  
710 domains of cognition; communication; attention; perception;  
711 behavior; and social, emotional, sensory, and motor functioning.

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

713 (c) The steering committee, in cooperation with the  
714 Department of Children and Families and~~,~~ the Department of  
715 Education, ~~and the Office of Early Learning,~~ shall identify the  
716 elements of an effective research-based curriculum for early  
717 care and education programs.

718 Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 414.295, Florida  
719 Statutes, is amended to read:

720 414.295 Temporary cash assistance programs; public records  
721 exemption.—

722 (1) Personal identifying information of a temporary cash  
723 assistance program participant, a participant's family, or a  
724 participant's family or household member, except for information  
725 identifying a parent who does not live in the same home as the

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726 child, which is held by the department, ~~the Office of Early~~  
727 ~~Learning~~, CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Health,  
728 the Department of Revenue, the Department of Education, or a  
729 local workforce development board or local committee created  
730 pursuant to s. 445.007 is confidential and exempt from s.  
731 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such  
732 confidential and exempt information may be released for purposes  
733 directly connected with:

734 (a) The administration of the temporary assistance for  
735 needy families plan under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act,  
736 as amended, by the department, ~~the Office of Early Learning~~,  
737 CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Military Affairs,  
738 the Department of Health, the Department of Revenue, the  
739 Department of Education, a local workforce development board or  
740 local committee created pursuant to s. 445.007, or a school  
741 district.

742 (b) The administration of the state's plan or program  
743 approved under Title IV-B, Title IV-D, or Title IV-E of the  
744 Social Security Act, as amended, or under Title I, Title X,  
745 Title XIV, Title XVI, Title XIX, Title XX, or Title XXI of the  
746 Social Security Act, as amended.

747 (c) An investigation, prosecution, or criminal, civil, or  
748 administrative proceeding conducted in connection with the  
749 administration of any of the plans or programs specified in  
750 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a federal, state, or local  
751 governmental entity, upon request by that entity, if such  
752 request is made pursuant to the proper exercise of that entity's  
753 duties and responsibilities.

754 (d) The administration of any other state, federal, or

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755 federally assisted program that provides assistance or services  
756 on the basis of need, in cash or in kind, directly to a  
757 participant.

758 (e) An audit or similar activity, such as a review of  
759 expenditure reports or financial review, conducted in connection  
760 with the administration of plans or programs specified in  
761 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a governmental entity  
762 authorized by law to conduct such audit or activity.

763 (f) The administration of the reemployment assistance  
764 program.

765 (g) The reporting to the appropriate agency or official of  
766 information about known or suspected instances of physical or  
767 mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent  
768 treatment or maltreatment of a child or elderly person receiving  
769 assistance, if circumstances indicate that the health or welfare  
770 of the child or elderly person is threatened.

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

773 Section 16. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is amended  
774 to read:

775 1000.01 The Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
776 system; technical provisions.—

777 (1) NAME.—Chapters 1000 through 1013 shall be known and  
778 cited as the “Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code.”

779 (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions of the Florida  
780 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code shall be liberally  
781 construed to the end that its objectives may be effected. It is  
782 the legislative intent that if any section, subsection,  
783 sentence, clause, or provision of the Florida Early Learning-20

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784 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is held invalid, the remainder of the code  
785 shall not be affected.

786 (3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Florida Early Learning-20  
787 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is to provide by law for a state system of  
788 schools, courses, classes, and educational institutions and  
789 services adequate to allow, for all Florida's students, the  
790 opportunity to obtain a high quality education. The Florida  
791 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system is established to  
792 accomplish this purpose; however, nothing in this code shall be  
793 construed to require the provision of free public education  
794 beyond grade 12.

795 (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS INCLUDED.—As  
796 required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the Florida  
797 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall include the  
798 uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public K-12  
799 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of instruction,  
800 beginning with kindergarten, and shall also provide such  
801 instruction for students with disabilities, gifted students,  
802 limited English proficient students, and students in Department  
803 of Juvenile Justice programs as may be required by law. The  
804 funds for support and maintenance of the uniform system of free  
805 public K-12 schools shall be derived from state, district,  
806 federal, and other lawful sources or combinations of sources,  
807 including any fees charged nonresidents as provided by law.

808 Section 17. Section 1000.02, Florida Statutes, is amended  
809 to read:

810 1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida Early  
811 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

812 (1) It is the policy of the Legislature:

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813 (a) To achieve within existing resources a seamless  
814 academic educational system that fosters an integrated continuum  
815 of early learning ~~kindergarten~~ through graduate school education  
816 for Florida's students.

817 (b) To promote enhanced academic success and funding  
818 efficiency of educational delivery systems by aligning  
819 responsibility with accountability.

820 (c) To provide consistent education policy across all  
821 educational delivery systems, focusing on students.

822 (d) To provide substantially improved articulation across  
823 all educational delivery systems.

824 (e) To provide for the decentralization of authority to the  
825 schools, Florida College System institutions, universities, and  
826 other education institutions that deliver educational services  
827 to the public.

828 (f) To ensure that independent education institutions and  
829 home education programs maintain their independence, autonomy,  
830 and nongovernmental status.

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

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

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

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

838 (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports academic  
839 excellence.

840 (e) A system that provides for local operational  
841 flexibility while promoting accountability for student

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842 achievement and improvement.

843 Section 18. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is amended  
844 to read:

845 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida Early  
846 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

847 (1) Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall  
848 be a decentralized system without excess layers of bureaucracy.  
849 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall maintain  
850 a systemwide technology plan based on a common set of data  
851 definitions.

852 (2) (a) The Legislature shall establish education policy,  
853 enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate education  
854 resources.

855 (b) With the exception of matters relating to the State  
856 University System, the State Board of Education shall oversee  
857 the enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision  
858 of direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,  
859 and strong incentives and disincentives to force accountability  
860 for results.

861 (c) The Board of Governors shall oversee the enforcement of  
862 all state university laws and rules and regulations and the  
863 timely provision of direction, resources, assistance,  
864 intervention when needed, and strong incentives and  
865 disincentives to force accountability for results.

866 (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the state  
867 and local educational authorities. The state retains  
868 responsibility for establishing a system of public education  
869 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient operation  
870 of an Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ system of public education and

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871 adequate educational opportunities for all individuals. Local  
872 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully  
873 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to efficiently  
874 use the resources available to them to assist the state in  
875 allowing adequate educational opportunities.

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

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

884 (a) *Learning and completion at all levels, including*  
885 *increased high school graduation rate and readiness for*  
886 *postsecondary education without remediation.*—All students  
887 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,  
888 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter  
889 postsecondary education without remediation.

890 (b) *Student performance.*—Students demonstrate that they  
891 meet the expected academic standards consistently at all levels  
892 of their education.

893 (c) *Civic literacy.*—Students are prepared to become  
894 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive  
895 contributions to their communities.

896 (d) *Alignment of standards and resources.*—Academic  
897 standards for every level of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
898 education system are aligned, and education financial resources  
899 are aligned with student performance expectations at each level

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900 of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

901 (e) *Educational leadership.*—The quality of educational  
902 leadership at all levels of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education is  
903 improved.

904 (f) *Workforce education.*—Workforce education is  
905 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new global  
906 economy.

907 (g) *Parental, student, family, educational institution, and*  
908 *community involvement.*—Parents, students, families, educational  
909 institutions, and communities are collaborative partners in  
910 education, and each plays an important role in the success of  
911 individual students. Therefore, the State of Florida cannot be  
912 the guarantor of each individual student's success. The goals of  
913 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system are not  
914 guarantees that each individual student will succeed or that  
915 each individual school will perform at the level indicated in  
916 the goals.

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

922 1. Career opportunities, educational requirements  
923 associated with each career, educational institutions that  
924 prepare students to enter each career, and student financial aid  
925 available to pursue postsecondary instruction required to enter  
926 each career.

927 2. How to make informed decisions about the program of  
928 study that best addresses the students' interests and abilities



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929 while preparing them to enter postsecondary education or the  
930 workforce.

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

933

934 This information shall be provided to students and parents  
935 through websites, handbooks, manuals, or other regularly  
936 provided communications.

937 Section 19. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended  
938 to read:

939 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education  
940 within the Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—  
941 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system provides for  
942 the delivery of early learning and public education through  
943 publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College  
944 System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary  
945 educational institutions, other educational institutions, and  
946 other educational services as provided or authorized by the  
947 Constitution and laws of the state.

948 (1) EARLY LEARNING.—Early learning includes the Voluntary  
949 Prekindergarten Education Program and the school readiness  
950 program.

951 (2) ~~(1)~~ PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.—The public K-12 schools include  
952 charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes; elementary,  
953 middle, and high school grades and special classes; virtual  
954 instruction programs; workforce education; career centers;  
955 adult, part-time, and evening schools, courses, or classes, as  
956 authorized by law to be operated under the control of district  
957 school boards; and lab schools operated under the control of

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958 state universities.

959 (3)~~(2)~~ PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—  
960 Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce  
961 education; Florida College System institutions; state  
962 universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary  
963 educational institutions that are authorized and established by  
964 law.

965 (4)~~(3)~~ FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.—The  
966 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of the  
967 delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20  
968 ~~K-20~~ education system.

969 (5)~~(4)~~ THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.—The Florida Virtual  
970 School is a component of the delivery of public education within  
971 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

972 Section 20. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended  
973 to read:

974 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida  
975 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code:

976 (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that  
977 provides the means by which students proceed toward their  
978 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner  
979 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade level,  
980 from elementary to middle to high school, to and through  
981 postsecondary education, and when transferring from one  
982 educational institution or program to another.

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

984 (3) "Florida College System institution" except as  
985 otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following  
986 public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida

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987 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other  
988 affiliates of the institution:

989 (a) Eastern Florida State College, which serves Brevard  
990 County.

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

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

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

996 (e) Daytona State College, which serves Flagler and Volusia  
997 Counties.

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

1000 (g) Florida State College at Jacksonville, which serves  
1001 Duval and Nassau Counties.

1002 (h) The College of the Florida Keys, which serves Monroe  
1003 County.

1004 (i) Gulf Coast State College, which serves Bay, Franklin,  
1005 and Gulf Counties.

1006 (j) Hillsborough Community College, which serves  
1007 Hillsborough County.

1008 (k) Indian River State College, which serves Indian River,  
1009 Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties.

1010 (l) Florida Gateway College, which serves Baker, Columbia,  
1011 Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties.

1012 (m) Lake-Sumter State College, which serves Lake and Sumter  
1013 Counties.

1014 (n) State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, which  
1015 serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

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- 1016 (o) Miami Dade College, which serves Miami-Dade County.
- 1017 (p) North Florida College, which serves Hamilton,  
1018 Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.
- 1019 (q) Northwest Florida State College, which serves Okaloosa  
1020 and Walton Counties.
- 1021 (r) Palm Beach State College, which serves Palm Beach  
1022 County.
- 1023 (s) Pasco-Hernando State College, which serves Hernando and  
1024 Pasco Counties.
- 1025 (t) Pensacola State College, which serves Escambia and  
1026 Santa Rosa Counties.
- 1027 (u) Polk State College, which serves Polk County.
- 1028 (v) St. Johns River State College, which serves Clay,  
1029 Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.
- 1030 (w) St. Petersburg College, which serves Pinellas County.
- 1031 (x) Santa Fe College, which serves Alachua and Bradford  
1032 Counties.
- 1033 (y) Seminole State College of Florida, which serves  
1034 Seminole County.
- 1035 (z) South Florida State College, which serves DeSoto,  
1036 Hardee, and Highlands Counties.
- 1037 (aa) Tallahassee Community College, which serves Gadsden,  
1038 Leon, and Wakulla Counties.
- 1039 (bb) Valencia College, which serves Orange and Osceola  
1040 Counties.
- 1041 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.
- 1042 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student, any  
1043 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to  
1044 a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a

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1045 student in place of the parent.

1046 (6) "State university," except as otherwise specifically  
1047 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch  
1048 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

1049 (a) The University of Florida.

1050 (b) The Florida State University.

1051 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

1052 (d) The University of South Florida.

1053 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.

1054 (f) The University of West Florida.

1055 (g) The University of Central Florida.

1056 (h) The University of North Florida.

1057 (i) The Florida International University.

1058 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.

1059 (k) New College of Florida.

1060 (l) The Florida Polytechnic University.

1061 (7) "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" means the  
1062 state's public K-12 curricular standards adopted under s.  
1063 1003.41.

1064 (8) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the  
1065 State University System.

1066 Section 21. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (s) of  
1067 subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended  
1068 to read:

1069 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—

1070 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief implementing  
1071 and coordinating body of public education in Florida except for  
1072 the State University System, and it shall focus on high-level  
1073 policy decisions. It has authority to adopt rules pursuant to

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1074 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law  
1075 conferring duties upon it for the improvement of the state  
1076 system of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public education except for the  
1077 State University System. Except as otherwise provided herein, it  
1078 may, as it finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the  
1079 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of  
1080 the department.

1081 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

1082 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and Legislature, as  
1083 provided in s. 216.023, a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
1084 education budget that estimates the expenditure requirements for  
1085 the Board of Governors, as provided in s. 1001.706, the State  
1086 Board of Education, including the Department of Education and  
1087 the Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards,  
1088 institutions, agencies, and services under the general  
1089 supervision of the Board of Governors, as provided in s.  
1090 1001.706, or the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal  
1091 year. The State Board of Education may not amend the budget  
1092 request submitted by the Board of Governors. Any program  
1093 recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of  
1094 Education which will require increases in state funding for more  
1095 than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1096 (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the  
1097 implementation and operation of a systemwide ~~K-20~~ technology  
1098 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

1099 Section 22. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1001.03,  
1100 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1101 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

1102 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.—The State Board of Education

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1103 shall enforce compliance with law and state board rule by all  
1104 school districts, early learning coalitions, and public  
1105 postsecondary educational institutions, except for the State  
1106 University System, in accordance with the provisions of s.  
1107 1008.32.

1108 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.—The State Board of  
1109 Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors regarding  
1110 the State University System, shall continue to collect and  
1111 maintain, at a minimum, the management information databases for  
1112 state universities, and all other components of the public Early  
1113 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system as such databases existed on  
1114 June 30, 2002.

1115 Section 23. Subsection (1), paragraphs (g), (k), and (l) of  
1116 subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1001.10, Florida  
1117 Statutes, are amended to read:

1118 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and  
1119 duties.—

1120 (1) The Commissioner of Education is the chief educational  
1121 officer of the state and the sole custodian of the educational  
1122 ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, and is responsible for giving full  
1123 assistance to the State Board of Education in enforcing  
1124 compliance with the mission and goals of the Early Learning-20  
1125 ~~K-20~~ education system, except for the State University System.

1126 (6) Additionally, the commissioner has the following  
1127 general powers and duties:

1128 (g) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or before  
1129 October 1 of each year, recommendations for a coordinated Early  
1130 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education budget that estimates the  
1131 expenditures for the Board of Governors, the State Board of

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1132 Education, including the Department of Education and the  
1133 Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards, institutions,  
1134 agencies, and services under the general supervision of the  
1135 Board of Governors or the State Board of Education for the  
1136 ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State Board  
1137 of Education that will require increases in state funding for  
1138 more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1139 (k) To prepare, publish, and disseminate user-friendly  
1140 materials relating to the state's education system, including  
1141 the state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness  
1142 program, and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1143 (l) To prepare and publish annually reports giving  
1144 statistics and other useful information pertaining to the  
1145 state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness program,  
1146 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1147 (8) In the event of an emergency situation, the  
1148 commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means  
1149 of communication with early learning coalitions, local school  
1150 districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite  
1151 offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of  
1152 Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and  
1153 assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite  
1154 office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after  
1155 considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and  
1156 clients.

1157 Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection  
1158 (4) of section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1159 1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—

1160 (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently



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1161 perform the following duties:

1162 (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the  
1163 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the  
1164 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State  
1165 Board of Education, the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system,  
1166 and early learning programs.

1167 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an  
1168 integrated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ information system for  
1169 educational management in accordance with the requirements of  
1170 chapter 1008.

1171 Section 25. Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes, is  
1172 repealed.

1173 Section 26. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida  
1174 Statutes, is amended to read:

1175 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in  
1176 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The  
1177 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and  
1178 shall:

1179 (7) Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance to  
1180 school districts' implementation of the ~~K-12~~ comprehensive  
1181 reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

1182 Section 27. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida  
1183 Statutes, is amended to read:

1184 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of  
1185 Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law  
1186 or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department  
1187 shall:

1188 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~  
1189 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

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1190 Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 1001.70, Florida  
1191 Statutes, is amended to read:

1192 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University System.—

1193 (3) The Board of Governors, in exercising its authority  
1194 under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its  
1195 authority in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances an  
1196 Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ education system that provides  
1197 affordable access to postsecondary educational opportunities for  
1198 residents of the state to the extent authorized by the State  
1199 Constitution and state law.

1200 Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
1201 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1202 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

1203 (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.—

1204 (b) The Board of Governors shall prepare the legislative  
1205 budget requests for the State University System, including a  
1206 request for fixed capital outlay, and submit them to the State  
1207 Board of Education for inclusion in the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
1208 legislative budget request. The Board of Governors shall provide  
1209 the state universities with fiscal policy guidelines, formats,  
1210 and instruction for the development of individual university  
1211 budget requests.

1212 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
1213 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1214 1002.22 Education records and reports of K-12 students;  
1215 rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.—

1216 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1217 (b) "Institution" means any public school, center,  
1218 institution, or other entity that is part of Florida's education

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1219 system under s. 1000.04(2), (4), and (5) ~~s. 1000.04(1), (3), and~~  
1220 ~~(4)~~.

1221 Section 31. Subsections (3) and (10) of section 1002.32,  
1222 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1223 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

1224 (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the  
1225 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,  
1226 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,  
1227 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school  
1228 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.  
1229 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an  
1230 appropriate education for its students.

1231 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics, science,  
1232 computer science, and foreign languages. The primary goal of a  
1233 lab school is to enhance instruction and research in such  
1234 specialized subjects by using the resources available on a state  
1235 university campus, while also providing an education in  
1236 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide  
1237 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where  
1238 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade  
1239 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State  
1240 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement  
1241 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

1242 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
1243 lab school may be generated by the college of education and  
1244 other colleges within the university with which the school is  
1245 affiliated.

1246 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
1247 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.

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1248 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education  
 1249 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the  
 1250 affiliated college.

1251 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
 1252 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the  
 1253 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the  
 1254 Legislature.

1255 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab  
 1256 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals  
 1257 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.  
 1258 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education  
 1259 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the  
 1260 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

1261 (10) EXCEPTIONS TO LAW.—To encourage innovative practices  
 1262 and facilitate the mission of the lab schools, in addition to  
 1263 the exceptions to law specified in s. 1001.23(1) ~~s. 1001.23(2)~~,  
 1264 the following exceptions shall be permitted for lab schools:

1265 (a) The methods and requirements of the following statutes  
 1266 shall be held in abeyance: ss. 316.75; 1001.30; 1001.31;  
 1267 1001.32; 1001.33; 1001.34; 1001.35; 1001.36; 1001.361; 1001.362;  
 1268 1001.363; 1001.37; 1001.371; 1001.372; 1001.38; 1001.39;  
 1269 1001.395; 1001.40; 1001.41; 1001.44; 1001.453; 1001.46;  
 1270 1001.461; 1001.462; 1001.463; 1001.464; 1001.47; 1001.48;  
 1271 1001.49; 1001.50; 1001.51; 1006.12(2); 1006.21(3), (4); 1006.23;  
 1272 1010.07(2); 1010.40; 1010.41; 1010.42; 1010.43; 1010.44;  
 1273 1010.45; 1010.46; 1010.47; 1010.48; 1010.49; 1010.50; 1010.51;  
 1274 1010.52; 1010.53; 1010.54; 1010.55; 1011.02(1)-(3), (5);  
 1275 1011.04; 1011.20; 1011.21; 1011.22; 1011.23; 1011.71; 1011.72;  
 1276 1011.73; and 1011.74.

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1277 (b) With the exception of s. 1001.42(18), s. 1001.42 shall  
1278 be held in abeyance. Reference to district school boards in s.  
1279 1001.42(18) shall mean the president of the university or the  
1280 president's designee.

1281 Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section  
1282 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1283 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.—

1284 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

1285 (b) A center must comply with the Florida Early Learning-20  
1286 ~~K-20~~ Education Code with respect to providing services to  
1287 students with disabilities.

1288 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 1002.36, Florida  
1289 Statutes, is amended to read:

1290 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

1291 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida School for the Deaf and  
1292 the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported  
1293 residential public school for hearing-impaired and visually  
1294 impaired students in preschool through 12th grade. The school is  
1295 a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's  
1296 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system and shall be funded  
1297 through the Department of Education. The school shall provide  
1298 educational programs and support services appropriate to meet  
1299 the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of  
1300 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in the state who  
1301 meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the  
1302 school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state  
1303 agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach  
1304 basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5 years and  
1305 to district school boards upon request. Graduates of the Florida

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1306 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the  
1307 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant  
1308 Program as provided in s. 1009.89.

1309 Section 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsection  
1310 (5) of section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
1311 paragraph (d) is added to subsection (6) of that section, to  
1312 read:

1313 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
1314 eligibility and enrollment.—

1315 (4)

1316 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed  
1317 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ and must be  
1318 accompanied by a certified copy of the child's birth  
1319 certificate. The forms must include a certification, in  
1320 substantially the form provided in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the  
1321 parent chooses the private prekindergarten provider or public  
1322 school in accordance with this section and directs that payments  
1323 for the program be made to the provider or school. The  
1324 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ may authorize alternative  
1325 methods for submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a  
1326 certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

1327 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent  
1328 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1329 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider  
1330 and public school delivering the program within the county where  
1331 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to  
1332 parents in a format prescribed by the department in accordance  
1333 with s. 1002.92(3) ~~Office of Early Learning~~. ~~The profiles must~~  
1334 ~~include, at a minimum, the following information about each~~

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1335 ~~provider and school:~~

1336 ~~(a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,~~  
1337 ~~instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and~~

1338 ~~(b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate~~  
1339 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most~~  
1340 ~~recent available results of the statewide kindergarten~~  
1341 ~~screening.~~

1342 (6)

1343 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the  
1344 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or  
1345 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and  
1346 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.

1347 Section 35. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i),  
1348 (j), and (l) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph  
1349 (b) of subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are  
1350 amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1351 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
1352 private prekindergarten providers.—

1353 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
1354 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
1355 following requirements:

1356 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child  
1357 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home  
1358 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed  
1359 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under  
1360 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from  
1361 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is  
1362 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a  
1363 military installation that is certified by the United States

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1364 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that  
1365 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A  
1366 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program  
1367 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1368 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

1369 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a  
1370 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,  
1371 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be  
1372 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,  
1373 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central  
1374 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States  
1375 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association  
1376 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation  
1377 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements  
1378 under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at  
1379 least one onsite visit to the provider or school before  
1380 accreditation is granted;

1381 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under  
1382 s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~; or

1383 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131  
1384 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1385 Education Program, as verified by the early learning coalition,  
1386 that the provider meets each of the requirements of the program  
1387 under this part, including, but not limited to, the requirements  
1388 for credentials and background screenings of prekindergarten  
1389 instructors under paragraphs (c) and (d), minimum and maximum  
1390 class sizes under paragraph (f), prekindergarten director  
1391 credentials under paragraph (g), and a developmentally  
1392 appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).



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1393 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for  
1394 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one  
1395 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following  
1396 requirements:

1397 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,  
1398 one of the following credentials:

1399 a. A child development associate credential issued by the  
1400 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional  
1401 Recognition; or

1402 b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and  
1403 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential  
1404 described in sub-subparagraph a.

1405  
1406 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under  
1407 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures  
1408 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

1409 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully  
1410 complete at least three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses  
1411 that include developmentally appropriate and experiential  
1412 learning practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance  
1413 standards training course approved by the department ~~office~~ as  
1414 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.  
1415 1002.59. The requirement for completion of the standards  
1416 training course shall take effect July 1, 2022 ~~2014~~, and be  
1417 recognized as part of the informal early learning career pathway  
1418 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). ~~Such and~~  
1419 ~~the~~ course shall be available online or in person.

1420 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a  
1421 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed

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1422 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a  
1423 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute  
1424 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1425 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1426 screening requirements in chapter 435. The department ~~Office of~~  
1427 ~~Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph  
1428 which shall include required qualifications of substitute  
1429 instructors and the circumstances and time limits for which a  
1430 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute  
1431 instructor.

1432 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a  
1433 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director  
1434 credential that is approved by the department ~~office~~ as meeting  
1435 or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. A  
1436 private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in  
1437 educational leadership issued by the department satisfies the  
1438 requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under s.  
1439 1002.57 ~~Successful completion of a child care facility director~~  
1440 ~~credential under s. 402.305(2)(g) before the establishment of~~  
1441 ~~the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July~~  
1442 ~~1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a~~  
1443 ~~prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.~~

1444 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register with  
1445 the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the  
1446 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

1447 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the  
1448 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~  
1449 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple  
1450 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's

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1451 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition  
1452 on behalf of each site provider.

1453 (j) The private prekindergarten provider must maintain  
1454 general liability insurance and provide the coalition with  
1455 written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,  
1456 including coverage for transportation of children if  
1457 prekindergarten students are transported by the provider. A  
1458 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that  
1459 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a  
1460 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department  
1461 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.  
1462 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder  
1463 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the  
1464 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written  
1465 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general  
1466 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in  
1467 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider  
1468 contract with the coalition.

1469 (l) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private  
1470 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision  
1471 thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to  
1472 notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage  
1473 maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise  
1474 established under s. 768.28. The provider shall indemnify the  
1475 coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28. Notwithstanding  
1476 paragraph (j), for a child development program that is  
1477 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a  
1478 military installation that is certified by the United States  
1479 Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability

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1480 coverage by affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort  
1481 Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. s. 2671 et seq.

1482 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum  
1483 credentials ~~and courses~~ required under paragraph (3)(c), may  
1484 hold one of the following educational credentials:

1485 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood  
1486 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool  
1487 education, or family and consumer science;

1488 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,  
1489 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach  
1490 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of  
1491 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if  
1492 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school  
1493 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

1494 (c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;

1495 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,  
1496 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child  
1497 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or  
1498 providing child care services for children any age from birth  
1499 through 8 years of age; or

1500 (e) An educational credential approved by the department as  
1501 being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential  
1502 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria  
1503 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials  
1504 under this paragraph.

1505 (5)

1506 (b) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, if a  
1507 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I  
1508 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program

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1509 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition  
1510 may refuse to contract with the provider.

1511 (6) Each early learning coalition shall verify that each  
1512 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary  
1513 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county  
1514 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private  
1515 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this  
1516 part or engages in misconduct, the department must require the  
1517 early learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility  
1518 to deliver the program and receive state funds under this part  
1519 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1520 Section 36. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of  
1521 section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
1522 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, subsection (1) is amended,  
1523 and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (2) of that  
1524 section, to read:

1525 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

1526 (1) The department ~~office~~, in consultation with the  
1527 Department of Children and Families, shall adopt minimum  
1528 standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of  
1529 private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary  
1530 Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass  
1531 requirements for education and onsite experience.

1532 (2) The educational requirements must include training in  
1533 the following:

1534 (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-level  
1535 data to inform the delivery of instruction;

1536 Section 37. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1537 to read:

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1538 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards  
1539 training courses.—

1540 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards for  
1541 ~~one or more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for  
1542 prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock  
1543 hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to  
1544 address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students  
1545 in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral  
1546 communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and  
1547 phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension  
1548 development. Each course must also provide resources containing  
1549 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other  
1550 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary  
1551 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an  
1552 emergent literacy training course approved under this section  
1553 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy  
1554 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6),  
1555 and 402.3131(5).

1556 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards for  
1557 ~~one or more training~~ courses on the performance standards  
1558 adopted under s. 1002.67(1). Each course must be comprised of  
1559 ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide instruction in  
1560 strategies and techniques to address age-appropriate progress of  
1561 each child in attaining the standards, and be available online.

1562 (3) The department shall make available online professional  
1563 development and training courses comprised of at least 8 clock  
1564 hours that support prekindergarten instructors in increasing the  
1565 competency of teacher-child interactions.

1566 Section 38. Present subsections (6) through (8) of section

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1567 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (7)  
1568 through (9), respectively, a new subsection (6) and subsection  
1569 (10) are added to that section, and paragraph (b) of subsection  
1570 (1), paragraph (b) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and  
1571 present subsections (6) and (8) of that section are amended, to  
1572 read:

1573 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public  
1574 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

1575 (1)

1576 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the  
1577 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or  
1578 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a  
1579 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private  
1580 prekindergarten provider. A child development program that is  
1581 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a  
1582 military installation that is certified by the United States  
1583 Department of Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten  
1584 program as a private prekindergarten provider.

1585 (3)

1586 (b) Each public school delivering the summer  
1587 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider  
1588 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the  
1589 school district may execute a single agreement with the early  
1590 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1591 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),  
1592 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must  
1593 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one  
1594 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds  
1595 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)

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1596 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"  
1597 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate  
1598 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the  
1599 district school board to instruct students in the summer  
1600 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for  
1601 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall  
1602 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in  
1603 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy  
1604 and performance standards courses, as provided for in s.  
1605 1002.55 (3) (c) 2.

1606 (6) A child development program that is accredited by a  
1607 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
1608 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
1609 of Defense shall comply with the requirements of a private  
1610 prekindergarten provider in this section.

1611 (7)~~(6)~~ A public school or private prekindergarten provider  
1612 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a  
1613 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned  
1614 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute  
1615 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1616 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1617 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not  
1618 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in  
1619 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of  
1620 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
1621 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include  
1622 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the  
1623 circumstances and time limits for which a public school or  
1624 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute



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1625 instructor.

1626 (9)~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the summer  
1627 prekindergarten program must also register with the early  
1628 learning coalition on forms prescribed by the department Office  
1629 ~~of Early Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1630 Education Program in accordance with this part.

1631 (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that  
1632 each private prekindergarten provider and public school  
1633 delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1634 within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies  
1635 with this part.

1636 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1637 fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in  
1638 misconduct, the department shall require the early learning  
1639 coalition to remove the provider or school from eligibility to  
1640 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and  
1641 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2  
1642 years but no more than 5 years.

1643 Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and subsections  
1644 (6) and (8) of section 1002.63, Florida Statutes, are amended,  
1645 and subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

1646 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
1647 public schools.—

1648 (3)

1649 (b) Each public school delivering the school-year  
1650 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider  
1651 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the  
1652 school district may execute a single agreement with the early  
1653 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

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1654 (6) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a  
1655 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed  
1656 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a  
1657 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute  
1658 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened  
1659 before employment in accordance with level 2 background  
1660 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not  
1661 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in  
1662 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of  
1663 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
1664 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include  
1665 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the  
1666 circumstances and time limits for which a public school  
1667 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

1668 (8) Each public school delivering the school-year  
1669 prekindergarten program must register with the early learning  
1670 coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~  
1671 ~~Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1672 Program in accordance with this part.

1673 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that each  
1674 public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1675 Program within the coalition's service area complies with this  
1676 part.

1677 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with this  
1678 part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require the  
1679 early learning coalition to remove the school from eligibility  
1680 to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and  
1681 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2  
1682 years but no more than 5 years.

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1683 Section 40. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1684 to read:

1685 1002.67 Performance standards and curricula ~~and~~  
1686 ~~accountability.~~—

1687 (1) (a) The department office shall develop and adopt  
1688 performance standards for students in the Voluntary  
1689 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards  
1690 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the  
1691 development of:

1692 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under  
1693 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~

1694 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,  
1695 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological  
1696 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and

1697 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.

1698  
1699 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~  
1700 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~  
1701 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~  
1702 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

1703 (b) At least every 3 years, the department office shall  
1704 ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the performance  
1705 standards established under this section ~~for the statewide~~  
1706 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align  
1707 the standards to the standards established by the state board  
1708 for student performance on the statewide assessments  
1709 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

1710 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public  
1711 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or

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1712 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1713 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school  
1714 that is placed on probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~.

1715 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
1716 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and  
1717 must:

1718 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and  
1719 provide for instruction in early math skills;

1720 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in  
1721 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department  
1722 under subsection (1); and

1723 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated  
1724 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening  
1725 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 ~~Prepare~~  
1726 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~  
1727 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

1728 (c) The department office shall adopt procedures for the  
1729 review and approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private  
1730 prekindergarten providers and public schools that are placed on  
1731 probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~. The department  
1732 ~~office~~ shall administer the review and approval process and  
1733 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.  
1734 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph  
1735 (b).

1736 ~~(3)(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~  
1737 ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~  
1738 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~  
1739 ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~  
1740 ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

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1741 ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~  
1742 ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~  
1743 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~  
1744 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

1745 ~~(c) The pre and post assessment must be administered by~~  
1746 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~  
1747 ~~State Board of Education.~~

1748 ~~(4)(a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that each~~  
1749 ~~private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~  
1750 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~  
1751 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~  
1752 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~  
1753 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

1754 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
1755 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~  
1756 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~  
1757 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~  
1758 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~  
1759 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~  
1760 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

1761 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~  
1762 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~  
1763 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~  
1764 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~  
1765 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~  
1766 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~  
1767 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~  
1768 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~  
1769 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~

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1770 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~  
1771 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~  
1772 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~  
1773 ~~office.~~

1774 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school that~~  
1775 ~~is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~  
1776 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~  
1777 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~  
1778 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~  
1779 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~  
1780 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~  
1781 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~  
1782 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~  
1783 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
1784 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

1785 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
1786 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~  
1787 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~  
1788 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~  
1789 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~  
1790 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~  
1791 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~  
1792 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~  
1793 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

1794 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~  
1795 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~  
1796 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~  
1797 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~  
1798 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~

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1799 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~  
1800 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~  
1801 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

1802 Section 41. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created  
1803 to read:

1804 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1805 accountability.-

1806 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each  
1807 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating  
1808 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must  
1809 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
1810 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated  
1811 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used  
1812 by the department to identify student learning gains, index  
1813 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative  
1814 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and  
1815 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten  
1816 provider's and public school's performance metric.

1817 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress monitoring  
1818 or screening must be administered by individuals meeting  
1819 requirements adopted by the department under s. 1008.2125.

1820 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public school  
1821 must provide a student's performance results from the  
1822 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's  
1823 parents within 7 days after the administration of such  
1824 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

1825 (2) Beginning with the 2021-2022 program year, each private  
1826 prekindergarten provider and public school in the Voluntary  
1827 Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in a program

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1828 assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education  
1829 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of  
1830 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,  
1831 classroom organization, and instructional support for children  
1832 ages 3 to 5 years. Each private prekindergarten provider and  
1833 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
1834 shall receive from the department the results of the program  
1835 assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the  
1836 observation. Each early learning coalition shall be responsible  
1837 for the administration of the program assessments, which must be  
1838 conducted by individuals qualified to conduct program  
1839 assessments under s. 1002.82(2)(n).

1840 (3)(a) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department shall  
1841 calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private  
1842 prekindergarten provider and public school in the Voluntary  
1843 Prekindergarten Education Program, based upon learning gains and  
1844 the percentage of students who are assessed as ready for  
1845 kindergarten. The department shall require that each school  
1846 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use  
1847 before the 2021-2022 school year to each kindergarten student in  
1848 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-  
1849 2022 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide  
1850 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private  
1851 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1852 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a  
1853 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results  
1854 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2021-  
1855 2022 program year. Any private prekindergarten provider or  
1856 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program



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1857 which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for  
1858 the 2020-2021 program year is subject to the probation  
1859 requirements of subsection (5).

1860 (b) For the 2021-2022 program year, the department shall  
1861 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider  
1862 based on the program assessment under subsection (2). Any  
1863 private prekindergarten provider or public school in the  
1864 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program which fails to meet  
1865 the minimum program assessment composite score established by  
1866 the state board pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(n) for the 2021-2022  
1867 program year is subject to the probation requirements of  
1868 subsection (5).

1869 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, the  
1870 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each  
1871 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's  
1872 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the  
1873 following:

1874 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection  
1875 (3), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1876 2. Learning gains operationalized as change in ability  
1877 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results  
1878 described in subsection (1).

1879 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes  
1880 described in subsection (1).

1881 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's  
1882 performance metric may only include prekindergarten students who  
1883 have attended at least 85 percent of a private prekindergarten  
1884 provider's or public school's program.

1885 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance

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1886 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or  
1887 public school site.

1888 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent  
1889 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent  
1890 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early  
1891 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability  
1892 systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a  
1893 limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the  
1894 profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following  
1895 designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency,"  
1896 "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable  
1897 terminology determined by the State Board of Education which may  
1898 not include letter grades. The independent expert may not be a  
1899 direct stakeholder or have had a financial interest in the  
1900 design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1901 Program or public school system within the last 5 years.

1902 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall  
1903 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten  
1904 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.  
1905 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15  
1906 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent  
1907 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program  
1908 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or  
1909 public school may not receive a differential payment if it  
1910 receives a designation of proficient or lower. Before the  
1911 adoption of the methodology, the department and the independent  
1912 expert shall confer with the Council for Early Grade Success  
1913 under s. 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the State  
1914 Board of Education for the final recommendations on the

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1915 designation system and differential payments.

1916 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually  
1917 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
1918 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in  
1919 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph  
1920 (d). Beginning with the 2023-2024 program year, each private  
1921 prekindergarten provider or public school shall be assigned a  
1922 designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-  
1923 year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by  
1924 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
1925 schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the summer  
1926 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by all  
1927 participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
1928 schools.

1929 (g) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1930 designated "proficient," "highly proficient," or "excellent"  
1931 demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of  
1932 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1933 (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early  
1934 learning provider performance profiles required under s.  
1935 1002.92(3).

1936 (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten  
1937 provider's program assessment composite score for its  
1938 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program  
1939 assessment composite score for contracting established by the  
1940 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(n), the private  
1941 prekindergarten provider or public school may not participate in  
1942 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the  
1943 consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school

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1944 or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite  
1945 score for contracting.

1946 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public  
1947 school's performance metric or designation falls below the  
1948 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning  
1949 coalition shall:

1950 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval to  
1951 the early learning coalition an improvement plan and implement  
1952 the plan.

1953 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1954 3. Require the provider or school to take certain  
1955 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved  
1956 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development  
1957 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional  
1958 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,  
1959 instructional support, language development, phonological  
1960 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

1961 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1962 placed on probation must continue the corrective actions  
1963 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets  
1964 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the  
1965 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs  
1966 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's  
1967 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1968 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more  
1969 than 5 years.

1970 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
1971 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet  
1972 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted

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1973 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall  
1974 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's or  
1975 school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1976 Education Program and receive state funds for the program for a  
1977 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1978 (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private  
1979 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
1980 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently  
1981 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and  
1982 for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an  
1983 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the  
1984 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state  
1985 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,  
1986 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or  
1987 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

1988 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public school's  
1989 request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such an  
1990 exemption, must be submitted to the department in the manner and  
1991 within the timeframes prescribed by the department and must  
1992 include the following:

1993 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or public  
1994 school which documents the achievement and progress of the  
1995 children served, as measured by any required screenings or  
1996 assessments.

1997 2. Data from the program assessment required under  
1998 subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices  
1999 as recognized by the tool developer.

2000 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district  
2001 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and

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2002 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting  
2003 association, as applicable, relating to the private  
2004 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with  
2005 state and local health and safety standards.

2006 (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good  
2007 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not  
2008 limited to, all of the following:

2009 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private  
2010 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically  
2011 significant population of children with special needs who have  
2012 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward  
2013 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education  
2014 plans.

2015 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary  
2016 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten  
2017 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has  
2018 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening  
2019 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

2020 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which  
2021 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the  
2022 tool developer.

2023 4. Verification that local and state health and safety  
2024 requirements are met.

2025 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any  
2026 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any  
2027 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as  
2028 defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families,  
2029 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request  
2030 for the exemption.

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2031 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
2032 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its  
2033 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required  
2034 under subsection (5) (b) until the provider or school meets the  
2035 minimum performance metric.

2036 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private  
2037 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
2038 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all  
2039 other applicable requirements of this part, the department shall  
2040 notify the early learning coalition of the good cause exemption  
2041 and direct that the early learning coalition not remove the  
2042 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary  
2043 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for  
2044 the program.

2045 (g) The department shall report the number of private  
2046 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a  
2047 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part  
2048 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(7).

2049 (7) Representatives from each school district and  
2050 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to  
2051 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary  
2052 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

2053 Section 42. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

2054 Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection  
2055 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of  
2056 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida  
2057 Statutes, are amended to read:

2058 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.-

2059 (3)

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2060 (c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated  
2061 student enrollment in each coalition service area. The  
2062 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall reallocate funds among  
2063 the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student  
2064 enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall  
2065 report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a  
2066 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal  
2067 year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent  
2068 fiscal year.

2069 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

2070 (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs  
2071 listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent  
2072 of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under  
2073 subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the  
2074 funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw  
2075 from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the  
2076 programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of  
2077 the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time  
2078 equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and  
2079 reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued  
2080 in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~  
2081 uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

2082 (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the  
2083 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw  
2084 from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the  
2085 child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer  
2086 programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time  
2087 equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is  
2088 reenrolled.



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2089

2090 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program  
2091 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten  
2092 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from  
2093 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good  
2094 cause exemption under this subsection. The department ~~Office of~~  
2095 ~~Early Learning~~ shall establish criteria specifying whether a  
2096 good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under  
2097 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a  
2098 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship  
2099 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under  
2100 paragraph (b).

2101 (5)

2102 (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt  
2103 procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers  
2104 and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2105 Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance  
2106 payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment  
2107 in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the  
2108 reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the  
2109 uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The  
2110 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds  
2111 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning  
2112 coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private  
2113 prekindergarten providers and public schools.

2114 (6)

2115 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district  
2116 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each  
2117 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to

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2118 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior  
2119 month's certified student attendance.

2120 2. The parent must submit the verification of the student's  
2121 attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or public  
2122 school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~  
2123 ~~Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the  
2124 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in  
2125 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to  
2126 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in  
2127 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the  
2128 program be made to the provider or school:

2129  
2130 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE

2131 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

2132 I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,  
2133 ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2134 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I  
2135 continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver  
2136 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid  
2137 to the provider or school for my child.

2138 ...(Signature of Parent)...

2139 ...(Date)...

2140 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school  
2141 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each  
2142 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning  
2143 coalition, and each public school must permit the school  
2144 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal  
2145 business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall  
2146 adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school

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2147 districts to review the original signed forms against the  
2148 certified student attendance. The review procedures shall  
2149 provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,  
2150 including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early  
2151 learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the  
2152 review procedures.

2153 (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,  
2154 for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the  
2155 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance  
2156 policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private  
2157 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance  
2158 policy must include at least the following provisions:

2159 1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata  
2160 basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

2161 2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on  
2162 behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a  
2163 public school may be for hours a student is absent.

2164 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school may  
2165 not receive payment for absences that occur before a student's  
2166 first day of attendance or after a student's last day of  
2167 attendance.

2168

2169 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding  
2170 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten  
2171 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its  
2172 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

2173 (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require  
2174 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum  
2175 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the

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2176 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative  
2177 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent  
2178 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic  
2179 submission of forms, including those required for child  
2180 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and  
2181 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school  
2182 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system  
2183 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early  
2184 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In  
2185 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate  
2186 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative  
2187 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend  
2188 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to  
2189 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under  
2190 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition  
2191 under this subsection may be used only for administering the  
2192 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used  
2193 for the school readiness program or other programs.

2194 Section 44. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida  
2195 Statutes, is amended to read:

2196 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary  
2197 Prekindergarten Education Program.—

2198 (1) (a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary  
2199 Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning  
2200 coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a  
2201 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are  
2202 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
2203 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such  
2204 records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher

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2205 observations, and personal identifying information of an  
2206 enrolled child and his or her parent.

2207 (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child  
2208 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held  
2209 by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early~~  
2210 ~~Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2211 provider before, on, or after the effective date of this  
2212 exemption.

2213 Section 45. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended  
2214 to read:

2215 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;  
2216 accountability requirements.—

2217 (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard statewide  
2218 provider contract to be used with each Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2219 Education Program provider, with standardized attachments by  
2220 provider type. The department shall publish a copy of the  
2221 standard statewide provider contract on its website. The  
2222 standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a  
2223 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for  
2224 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a  
2225 provider which pose an immediate and serious danger to the  
2226 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide  
2227 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process  
2228 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,  
2229 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any  
2230 provision imposed upon a provider which is inconsistent with, or  
2231 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~  
2232 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
2233 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

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2234 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:  
 2235 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials  
 2236 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.  
 2237 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early mathematics  
 2238 skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.59.  
 2239 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers  
 2240 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the  
 2241 minimum performance metric or designation as required by s.  
 2242 1002.68 of the high-quality professional development  
 2243 opportunities developed or supported by the department.  
 2244 (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
 2245 Education Program by the early learning coalitions, including,  
 2246 but not limited to, procedures for:  
 2247 1. Enrolling students in and determining the eligibility of  
 2248 children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
 2249 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children  
 2250 by public schools and private providers that meet specified  
 2251 requirements.  
 2252 2. Providing parents with profiles of private  
 2253 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.  
 2254 3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and public  
 2255 schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55, 1002.61, and  
 2256 1002.63.  
 2257 4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten  
 2258 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61  
 2259 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility  
 2260 whenever possible.  
 2261 5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten  
 2262 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools

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2263 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or  
2264 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2265 6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public  
2266 schools under s. 1002.71.

2267 7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and  
2268 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

2269 8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the  
2270 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2271 9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private  
2272 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with  
2273 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.  
2274 1002.71.

2275 (3) The department shall administer the accountability  
2276 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2277 at the state level.

2278 (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the  
2279 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2280 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

2281 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten  
2282 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2283 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public  
2284 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.  
2285 1002.68.

2286 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public  
2287 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the  
2288 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time  
2289 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a  
2290 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I  
2291 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program

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2292 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition  
2293 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the  
2294 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2295 Education Program.

2296 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility  
2297 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2298 under s. 1002.66.

2299 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers  
2300 under s. 1002.66.

2301 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~  
2302 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~  
2303 ~~1002.69.~~

2304 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~  
2305 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~  
2306 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~  
2307 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~  
2308 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~  
2309 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~  
2310 ~~department.~~

2311 (f)(e) Approving Approval of specialized instructional  
2312 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2313 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~  
2314 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2315 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or  
2316 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.  
2317 1002.68 s. 1002.69(7).

2318 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the  
2319 distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.  
2320 1002.71.



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2321        (6)~~(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the department may not  
2322 impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or  
2323 public school that does not deliver the Voluntary  
2324 Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under  
2325 this part.

2326        Section 46. Sections 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is  
2327 repealed.

2328        Section 47. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended  
2329 to read:

2330        1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education  
2331 ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)  
2332 and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring  
2333 duties upon the department ~~office~~.

2334        Section 48. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended  
2335 to read:

2336        1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of 45  
2337 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2338        (1) "At-risk child" means:

2339        (a) A child from a family under investigation by the  
2340 Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's  
2341 office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2342        (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the  
2343 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider  
2344 and who is from a family that is actively participating and  
2345 complying in department-prescribed activities, including  
2346 education, health services, or work.

2347        (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the  
2348 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service  
2349 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

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2350 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or  
2351 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after  
2352 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and  
2353 Families or its contracted provider.

2354 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a  
2355 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a  
2356 certified domestic violence center.

2357 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered  
2358 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families  
2359 certified homeless shelter.

2360 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care that  
2361 are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment, or  
2362 complete work activities or eligible educational activities,  
2363 including reasonable travel time.

2364 (12)~~(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the  
2365 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency  
2366 distribution average of the market rate by program care level  
2367 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which  
2368 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

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) ~~s.~~  
2378 ~~1002.89(6)(b).~~

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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

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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 or  
2419 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 (13)~~(14)~~ "Single point of entry" means an integrated  
2428 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her  
2429 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary  
2430 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations  
2431 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or  
2432 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a  
2433 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for  
2434 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2435 (14)~~(15)~~ "Unearned income" means income other than earned  
2436 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

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- 2437 (a) Documented alimony and child support received.
- 2438 (b) Social security benefits.
- 2439 (c) Supplemental security income benefits.
- 2440 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.
- 2441 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation
- 2442 benefits.
- 2443 (f) Veterans' benefits.
- 2444 (g) Retirement benefits.
- 2445 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.
- 2446 (15)~~(16)~~ "Working family" means:
- 2447 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom
- 2448 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or
- 2449 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;
- 2450 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom the
- 2451 child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or
- 2452 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours
- 2453 per week; or
- 2454 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with
- 2455 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to
- 2456 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician
- 2457 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is
- 2458 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at
- 2459 least 20 hours per week.
- 2460 Section 49. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended
- 2461 to read:
- 2462 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;
- 2463 powers and duties.—
- 2464 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and
- 2465 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts

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2466 98 and 99, the Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~  
2467 is designated as the lead agency and must comply with lead  
2468 agency responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department  
2469 ~~office~~ may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of,  
2470 and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss.  
2471 411.223 and 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for  
2472 implementation of the school readiness program. Section  
2473 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply to the school readiness program.

2474 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2475 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered by  
2476 all providers participating in the school readiness program.

2477 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to  
2478 choose from a variety of child care categories, including  
2479 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to  
2480 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development  
2481 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health  
2482 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and  
2483 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or  
2484 excluded in any of these categories.

2485 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and  
2486 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual  
2487 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,  
2488 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of  
2489 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,  
2490 including:

2491 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for  
2492 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides  
2493 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,  
2494 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.

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2495 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

2496       a. Direct services to children.

2497       b. Administrative costs.

2498       c. Quality activities.

2499       d. Nondirect services.

2500       2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to

2501 perform data matches on children participating in the school

2502 readiness program and their families in order to verify the

2503 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2504       (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of

2505 the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate.

2506       (e) Review each early learning coalition's school readiness

2507 program plan every 2 years and provide final approval of the

2508 plan and any amendments submitted.

2509       (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to

2510 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of

2511 this effort, the department ~~office~~:

2512       1. Shall adopt specific program support services that

2513 address the state's school readiness program, including:

2514       a. Statewide data information program requirements that

2515 include:

2516           (I) Eligibility requirements.

2517           (II) Financial reports.

2518           (III) Program accountability measures.

2519           (IV) Child progress reports.

2520       b. Child care resource and referral services.

2521       c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.

2522       2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on

2523 additional support services to complement the school readiness

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2524 program, including:

2525 ~~a. Rating and improvement systems.~~

2526 ~~a.b.~~ Warm-Line services.

2527 ~~b.e.~~ Anti-fraud plans.

2528 ~~d. School readiness program standards.~~

2529 ~~e. Child screening and assessments.~~

2530 ~~c.f.~~ Training and support for parental involvement in  
2531 children's early education.

2532 ~~d.g.~~ Family literacy activities and services.

2533 (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning  
2534 coalitions.

2535 (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,  
2536 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the  
2537 Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to  
2538 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety  
2539 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child  
2540 care training and credentialing.

2541 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local  
2542 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of  
2543 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of  
2544 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify  
2545 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist  
2546 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a  
2547 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for  
2548 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety  
2549 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the  
2550 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A  
2551 child development program that is accredited by a national  
2552 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is



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2553 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted  
2554 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2555 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the Develop  
2556 ~~and adopt~~ standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the  
2557 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children  
2558 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for  
2559 children from birth to kindergarten entry ~~5 years of age~~ in the  
2560 school readiness program must be aligned with the performance  
2561 standards adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2562 Education Program and must address the following domains:

- 2563 1. Approaches to learning.
- 2564 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 2565 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 2566 4. Physical development.
- 2567 5. Self-regulation.

2568 (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are  
2569 valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at  
2570 least three times a year. The assessments must:

2571 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~riterion-~~  
2572 ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across  
2573 the core domains of early childhood development and that can be  
2574 used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.

2575 2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted  
2576 pursuant to paragraph (j).

2577 3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children with  
2578 disabilities and English language learners and be administered  
2579 by qualified individuals, consistent with the developer's  
2580 instructions.

2581 4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by the

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2582 department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2583 Education Program.

2584 5. Provide data in a format for use in the single statewide  
2585 information system to meet the requirements of paragraph (q)  
2586 ~~(p)~~.

2587 (l) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the  
2588 performance standards for the school readiness program and  
2589 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's  
2590 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

2591 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning  
2592 coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard  
2593 statewide provider contract adopted by the department to be used  
2594 with each school readiness program provider, with standardized  
2595 attachments by provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall  
2596 publish a copy of the standard statewide provider contract on  
2597 its website. The standard statewide contract shall include, at a  
2598 minimum, contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the  
2599 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R.  
2600 parts 98 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable;  
2601 program assessment requirements; and provisions for provider  
2602 probation, termination for cause, and emergency termination for  
2603 those actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate  
2604 and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the  
2605 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also  
2606 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency  
2607 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to  
2608 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that  
2609 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and  
2610 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also

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2611 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established  
2612 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the  
2613 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting  
2614 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)  
2615 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to  
2616 paragraph (n).

2617 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness program  
2618 providers that measures the quality of teacher-child  
2619 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,  
2620 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and  
2621 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The  
2622 implementation of the program assessment must also include the  
2623 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of  
2624 Education:

2625 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program assessment  
2626 composite score threshold for contracting purposes and program  
2627 improvement through an improvement plan. The minimum program  
2628 assessment composite score required for the Voluntary  
2629 Prekindergarten Education Program contracting threshold must be  
2630 the same as the minimum program assessment composite score  
2631 required for contracting for the school readiness program. The  
2632 methodology for the calculation of the minimum program  
2633 assessment composite score shall be reviewed by the independent  
2634 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

2635 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of  
2636 program assessment, and exemptions.

2637 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential  
2638 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the  
2639 department office under paragraph (n). The differential payment

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2640 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and  
2641 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5  
2642 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to  
2643 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide  
2644 information system in the domains of language and executive  
2645 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to  
2646 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum program assessment  
2647 score adopted ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes are ineligible  
2648 for such payment.

2649 (p) No later than July 1, 2022, develop and adopt  
2650 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to  
2651 make available contracted slots to serve children at the  
2652 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children  
2653 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty  
2654 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted  
2655 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of  
2656 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.  
2657 1002.85(2)(j).

2658 (q) ~~(p)~~ Establish a single statewide information system that  
2659 each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the single  
2660 point of entry, tracking children's progress, coordinating  
2661 services among stakeholders, determining eligibility of  
2662 children, tracking child attendance, and streamlining  
2663 administrative processes for providers and early learning  
2664 coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss. 1002.72  
2665 and 1002.97, shall:

- 2666 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her  
2667 child as the child moves among programs within the state.
- 2668 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level

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2669 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality  
2670 improvement and investment decisions.

2671 (r)~~(q)~~ Provide technical support to coalitions to  
2672 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures  
2673 adopted in state board rule for early learning coalitions to use  
2674 when monitoring the compliance of school readiness program  
2675 providers with the terms of the standard statewide provider  
2676 contract.

2677 (s)~~(r)~~ At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic  
2678 monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early  
2679 learning coalition in administering the school readiness  
2680 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program  
2681 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program  
2682 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2683 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must  
2684 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's  
2685 finances, management, operations, and programs.

2686 (t)~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal  
2687 Education Programs within the Department of Education to  
2688 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to  
2689 the populations served by the bureau.

2690 (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to  
2691 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and  
2692 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,  
2693 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are  
2694 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other  
2695 special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2696 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day  
2697 care homes of the availability of this service through the child

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2698 care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2699 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line to  
2700 maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning coalition  
2701 service area.

2702 (v)~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the  
2703 supply and improve the quality of child care services for  
2704 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who  
2705 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in  
2706 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant  
2707 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

2708 (w)~~(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training  
2709 requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child  
2710 development standards, health and safety requirements, and  
2711 social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include  
2712 positive behavior intervention and support models, including the  
2713 integration of early learning professional development pathways  
2714 established in s. 1002.995.

2715 (x)~~(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness plans  
2716 for school readiness program providers.

2717 (y)~~(x)~~ Establish group sizes.

2718 (z)~~(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not  
2719 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.  
2720 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program  
2721 providers.

2722 (aa)~~(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including  
2723 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance  
2724 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2725 (3) (a) The department shall adopt performance standards and  
2726 outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a

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2727 minimum, include the development of objective customer service  
2728 surveys that shall be deployed beginning in fiscal year 2022-  
2729 2023 and be distributed to:

2730 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the  
2731 completion of a referral inquiry.

2732 2. Parents, annually, at the time of eligibility  
2733 determination.

2734 3. Child care providers that participate in the school  
2735 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2736 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider  
2737 contract.

2738 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

2739 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a statistically  
2740 significant sample size and calculated annually for each early  
2741 learning coalition and included in the department's annual  
2742 report under subsection (7). If an early learning coalition's  
2743 customer satisfaction survey results are below 60 percent, the  
2744 coalition shall be placed on a 1-year corrective action plan.  
2745 If, after being placed on corrective action, an early learning  
2746 coalition's customer satisfaction survey results do not improve  
2747 above the 60 percent threshold, the department may contract out  
2748 or merge the coalition.

2749 (4)~~(3)~~ If the department ~~office~~ determines during the  
2750 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring  
2751 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an  
2752 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its  
2753 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and  
2754 outcome measures adopted by the department ~~office~~, or has not  
2755 effectively administered the school readiness program or

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2756 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the department  
2757 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer  
2758 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a  
2759 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and  
2760 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or  
2761 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or  
2762 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is  
2763 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board  
2764 office.

2765 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for merging early  
2766 learning coalitions for failure to meet the requirements of  
2767 subsection (3) or subsection (4), including procedures for the  
2768 consolidation of merging coalitions that minimize duplication of  
2769 programs and services due to the merger, and for the early  
2770 termination of the terms of the coalition members which are  
2771 necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2772 (6)~~(4)~~ The department ~~office~~ may request the Governor to  
2773 apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head  
2774 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness  
2775 program.

2776 (7)~~(5)~~ By January 1 of each year, the department ~~office~~  
2777 shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities  
2778 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary  
2779 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the  
2780 following:

2781 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout the  
2782 state, including the school readiness program and the Voluntary  
2783 Prekindergarten Education Program.

2784 1. The total and average number of children served in the



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2785 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility  
2786 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of  
2787 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2788 Program.

2789 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,  
2790 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of  
2791 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,  
2792 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2793 3. A description of the department's office's and each  
2794 coalition's expenditures by fund source for the quality and  
2795 enhancement activities described in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~  
2796 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2797 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to  
2798 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2799 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early  
2800 learning programs.

2801 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and  
2802 the reason for disenrollment.

2803 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2804 8. The number of school readiness program providers who  
2805 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph  
2806 (2)(n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum  
2807 program assessment composite score threshold ~~threshold~~ for contracting  
2808 established under paragraph (2)(n); and the number of providers  
2809 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the  
2810 program assessment under paragraph (2)(n).

2811 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the  
2812 reasons for revocation.

2813 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the

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2814 single statewide information system established in subsection  
2815 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child  
2816 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2817 (8) (a) (6) (a) Parental choice of child care providers,  
2818 including private and faith-based providers, shall be  
2819 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with  
2820 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2821 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment  
2822 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45  
2823 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

2824 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with  
2825 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment  
2826 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,  
2827 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment  
2828 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the  
2829 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must  
2830 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized  
2831 representative of the provider.

2832 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash  
2833 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for  
2834 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or  
2835 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of  
2836 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2837 (9) (7) Participation in the school readiness program does  
2838 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,  
2839 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional  
2840 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the  
2841 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

2842 Section 50. Present subsections (5) through (14) of section

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2843 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (6)  
 2844 through (15), respectively, a new subsection (5) is added to  
 2845 that section, and subsections (1) and (3), paragraphs (e), (f),  
 2846 and (m) of subsection (4), and present subsections (5), (11),  
 2847 and (13) of that section are amended, to read:

2848 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2849 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions  
 2850 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services  
 2851 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67  
 2852 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for  
 2853 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program  
 2854 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2855 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other  
 2856 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the  
 2857 ~~same~~ qualifications of a ~~as~~ private sector business member  
 2858 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (6) ~~(5)~~. In  
 2859 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of  
 2860 Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early  
 2861 learning coalition board membership.

2862 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the  
 2863 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
 2864 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
 2865 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
 2866 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
 2867 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of  
 2868 such members may serve as a voting member:

2869 (e) A children's services council or juvenile welfare board  
 2870 chair or executive director from each county, if applicable.

2871 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care

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2872 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing  
2873 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

2874 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2875 (5) If members of the board are found to be  
2876 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition  
2877 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate  
2878 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership  
2879 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

2880 (6)~~(5)~~ The early learning coalition may appoint additional  
2881 including the members who appointed by the Governor under  
2882 subsection (3), more than one third of the members of each early  
2883 learning coalition must be private sector business members,  
2884 either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of  
2885 whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial  
2886 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary  
2887 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this  
2888 chapter or the school readiness program. To meet this  
2889 requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional  
2890 members. The department office shall establish criteria for  
2891 appointing private sector business members. These criteria must  
2892 include standards for determining whether a member or relative  
2893 has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery  
2894 of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school  
2895 readiness program.

2896 (12)~~(11)~~ Each early learning coalition shall establish  
2897 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must  
2898 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4  
2899 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~  
2900 ~~pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may serve a maximum of

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2901 two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed  
2902 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

2903 (14)~~(13)~~ Each early learning coalition shall complete an  
2904 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive  
2905 director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the  
2906 department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the  
2907 commissioner by June 30 of each year ~~use a coordinated~~  
2908 ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~  
2909 ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~  
2910 ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~  
2911 ~~adopted by the office.~~

2912 Section 51. Present subsections (7) through (20) of section  
2913 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (8)  
2914 through (21), respectively, a new subsection (7) is added to  
2915 that section, and subsections (1), (2), and (4) and present  
2916 subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20) of that  
2917 section are amended, to read:

2918 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
2919 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2920 (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program  
2921 of school readiness program services in accordance with this  
2922 part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which  
2923 enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of  
2924 children to achieve the performance standards.

2925 (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible  
2926 children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program  
2927 in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
2928 ~~office~~.

2929 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the

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2930 department office pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.  
2931 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical  
2932 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and  
2933 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,  
2934 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care  
2935 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve  
2936 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2937 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that  
2938 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by  
2939 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the  
2940 performance standards adopted by the department.

2941 (8) ~~(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87  
2942 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child  
2943 eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must  
2944 document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school  
2945 readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by  
2946 the department office.

2947 (9) ~~(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides  
2948 for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families  
2949 receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~  
2950 ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~  
2951 ~~a case-by-case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child  
2952 or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's  
2953 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose  
2954 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits  
2955 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in  
2956 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency  
2957 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the  
2958 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in

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2959 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may  
2960 not transfer school readiness program services to another school  
2961 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted  
2962 documentation from the current school readiness program provider  
2963 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has  
2964 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2965 (16)~~(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in  
2966 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental  
2967 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.  
2968 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring  
2969 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to  
2970 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial  
2971 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local  
2972 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers  
2973 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored  
2974 biennially.

2975 (17)~~(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all  
2976 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The  
2977 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
2978 ~~average~~ market rate, include the projected number of children to  
2979 be served, and be submitted for approval by the department  
2980 ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed at  
2981 not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day  
2982 care home.

2983 (18)~~(17)~~ Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the  
2984 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and  
2985 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school  
2986 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2987 Program services and submit the plan to the department ~~office~~

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2988 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

2989 (19)~~(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual report  
2990 to the department ~~office~~. The report shall conform to the format  
2991 adopted by the department ~~office~~ and must include:

2992 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,  
2993 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~  
2994 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds~~, and other local revenues  
2995 available to the coalition.

2996 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including total  
2997 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,  
2998 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2999 (c) The total number of coalition staff and the related  
3000 expenditures for salaries and benefits. For any subcontracts,  
3001 the total number of contracted staff and the related  
3002 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

3003 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness  
3004 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility  
3005 priority category, reported as the number of children served  
3006 during the month, the average participation throughout the  
3007 month, and the number of children served during the month.

3008 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the  
3009 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

3010 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

3011 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by  
3012 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program  
3013 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or  
3014 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

3015 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

3016 (i) The total number of children served in each provider



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3017 facility.

3018 (21) (a) ~~(20)~~ To increase transparency and accountability,  
3019 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting  
3020 with one or more of the following persons or business entities  
3021 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned  
3022 by the following persons:

3023 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.  
3024 1002.83(3);

3025 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient  
3026 entity;

3027 3. A coalition employee; or

3028 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1) (c), of any  
3029 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~  
3030 ~~employee of the coalition.~~

3031 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the approval  
3032 of the department office ~~office~~. Such contracts, as well as  
3033 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the  
3034 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the  
3035 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of  
3036 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who  
3037 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit  
3038 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under  
3039 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~  
3040 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~  
3041 ~~112.3143(1) (c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~  
3042 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the  
3043 department office ~~office~~ but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of  
3044 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be  
3045 reported to the department office ~~office~~ within 30 days after approval.

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3046 If a contract cannot be approved by the department ~~office~~, a  
3047 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be  
3048 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to  
3049 the disapproved contract.

3050 Section 52. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3051 to read:

3052 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

3053 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules prescribing the  
3054 standardized format and required content of school readiness  
3055 program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified  
3056 entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in  
3057 this part.

3058 (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a  
3059 school readiness program plan to the department ~~office~~ before  
3060 the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its  
3061 school readiness program plan until it receives approval from  
3062 the department ~~office~~. A coalition may not implement any  
3063 revision to its school readiness program plan until the  
3064 coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from  
3065 the department ~~office~~. If the department ~~office~~ rejects a plan  
3066 or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its  
3067 previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not  
3068 limited to:

3069 (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership  
3070 and business organization, and the coalition's articles of  
3071 incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a  
3072 corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation  
3073 or other business entity, the plan must include the contract  
3074 with a fiscal agent.

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3075 (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care  
3076 level.

3077 (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the  
3078 requirements of this part, including:

3079 1. Single point of entry.

3080 2. Uniform waiting list.

3081 3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local  
3082 eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.

3083 4. Parent access and choice.

3084 5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver or  
3085 reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~

3086 ~~1002.84(8)~~.

3087 6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as  
3088 applicable.

3089 7. Payment rate schedule.

3090 8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the  
3091 results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

3092 (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality  
3093 activities and services, including, but not limited to:

3094 1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.

3095 2. Infant and toddler early learning.

3096 3. Inclusive early learning programs.

3097 4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching  
3098 practices and increase child outcomes.

3099 (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures  
3100 for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level  
3101 of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all  
3102 estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a  
3103 listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted

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3104 subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or  
3105 hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan  
3106 outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed  
3107 capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

3108 (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the  
3109 department ~~office~~, of all revenues and expenditures during the  
3110 previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be  
3111 identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~  
3112 categories: state and federal funds and, local matching funds,  
3113 ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

3114 (g) Updated policies and procedures, including those  
3115 governing procurement, maintenance of tangible personal  
3116 property, maintenance of records, information technology  
3117 security, and disbursement controls.

3118 (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school  
3119 readiness program providers, including in response to a parental  
3120 complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.  
3121 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool  
3122 adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to be  
3123 high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial  
3124 findings of violations of law shall be monitored more  
3125 frequently.

3126 (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and  
3127 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness  
3128 program plan from the local community.

3129 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or  
3130 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider  
3131 capacity using available community data.

3132 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as

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3133 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by  
3134 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on  
3135 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

3136 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the  
3137 standardized format and required content of school readiness  
3138 program plans on its website.

3139 (5) The department ~~office~~ shall collect and report data on  
3140 coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall  
3141 include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress  
3142 towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the  
3143 percentage of children served by the program as compared to the  
3144 number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of  
3145 children served compared to total number of children under the  
3146 age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level,  
3147 provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance  
3148 and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and  
3149 kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary  
3150 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness  
3151 program upon entry into kindergarten. The department ~~office~~  
3152 shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness  
3153 program providers before finalizing the format and data to be  
3154 used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,  
3155 and results of the report must be included in the annual report  
3156 under s. 1002.82.

3157 Section 53. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),  
3158 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section  
3159 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is  
3160 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

3161 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;

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3162 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

3163 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness program,  
3164 a school readiness program provider must:

3165 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a  
3166 family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a  
3167 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a  
3168 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.  
3169 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from  
3170 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school  
3171 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development  
3172 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and  
3173 operates on a military installation that is certified by the  
3174 United States Department of Defense, ~~or~~ an informal child care  
3175 provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and  
3176 Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States  
3177 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.  
3178 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license  
3179 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program  
3180 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

3181 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-  
3182 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child  
3183 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant  
3184 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to  
3185 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an  
3186 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with  
3187 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to  
3188 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and  
3189 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

3190 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and

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3191 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate  
3192 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness  
3193 program.

3194 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.  
3195 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as  
3196 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

3197 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care home  
3198 or is not subject to licensure or registration by the Department  
3199 of Children and Families, compliance with this subsection, as  
3200 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.  
3201 Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the provider shall  
3202 annually post the health and safety checklist adopted by the  
3203 department ~~office~~ prominently on its premises in plain sight for  
3204 visitors and parents and shall annually submit the checklist to  
3205 its local early learning coalition.

3206 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a  
3207 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
3208 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
3209 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual  
3210 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense  
3211 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3212 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.  
3213 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of  
3214 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the  
3215 department ~~office~~.

3216 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the  
3217 department ~~office~~ that meets the child development standards.

3218 (m) For a provider that is not an informal provider,  
3219 maintain general liability insurance and provide the coalition

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3220 with written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,  
3221 including coverage for transportation of children if school  
3222 readiness program children are transported by the provider. A  
3223 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that  
3224 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a  
3225 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department  
3226 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.  
3227 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder  
3228 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the  
3229 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written  
3230 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general  
3231 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in  
3232 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider  
3233 contract with the coalition.

3234 (n) For a provider that is an informal provider, comply  
3235 with the provisions of paragraph (m) or maintain homeowner's  
3236 liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If an  
3237 informal provider chooses to maintain a homeowner's policy, the  
3238 provider must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy  
3239 that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence  
3240 and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The  
3241 department ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as  
3242 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a  
3243 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An  
3244 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of  
3245 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or  
3246 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by  
3247 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the  
3248 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.



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3249 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is a  
3250 state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.  
3251 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional  
3252 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to  
3253 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall  
3254 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.  
3255 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program  
3256 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates  
3257 on a military installation that is certified by the United  
3258 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate  
3259 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the  
3260 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3261 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract  
3262 adopted by the department ~~office~~.

3263 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has  
3264 been granted under s. 1002.84(9).

3265 (3) The department ~~office~~ and the coalitions may not:

3266 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or  
3267 early childhood education provider that does not deliver  
3268 services under the school readiness program or receive state or  
3269 federal funds under this part;

3270 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program  
3271 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or  
3272 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or  
3273 part V of this chapter; or

3274 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or  
3275 postassessment.

3276 Section 54. Subsections (2), (3), and (6) of section  
3277 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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3278 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3279 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~  
3280 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~  
3281 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3282 (2)~~(3)~~ All instructions to early learning coalitions for  
3283 administering this section shall emanate from the department  
3284 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

3285 (5)~~(6)~~ Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for the  
3286 efficient and effective administration of the school readiness  
3287 program with the highest priority of expenditure being direct  
3288 services for eligible children. However, no more than 5 percent  
3289 of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be  
3290 used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent of the  
3291 funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be used in  
3292 any fiscal year for any combination of administrative costs,  
3293 quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3294 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.54  
3295 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.52~~, which shall include monitoring providers  
3296 using the standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to  
3297 improve compliance with state and federal regulations and law  
3298 pursuant to the requirements of the statewide provider contract  
3299 adopted under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3300 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as  
3301 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.51~~, which shall  
3302 be limited to the following:

3303 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and  
3304 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related  
3305 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents  
3306 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified

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3307 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

3308       2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to  
3309 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist  
3310 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program  
3311 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care  
3312 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate  
3313 curricula and related classroom resources that support  
3314 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued  
3315 professional development and training. Any grants awarded  
3316 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and  
3317 287.058.

3318       3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial  
3319 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and  
3320 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child  
3321 development research and best practices, developmentally  
3322 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child  
3323 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and  
3324 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the  
3325 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,  
3326 prevention, and reporting.

3327       4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the  
3328 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding  
3329 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal  
3330 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for  
3331 infant and toddler care.

3332       5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and  
3333 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as  
3334 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3335       6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and

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3336 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings  
3337 to school readiness program children.

3338 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office of  
3339 Management and Budget instructions are those services not  
3340 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are  
3341 required to administer the school readiness program. Such  
3342 services include, but are not limited to:

- 3343 1. Assisting families to complete the required application  
3344 and eligibility documentation.
- 3345 2. Determining child and family eligibility.
- 3346 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
- 3347 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.
- 3348 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care  
3349 information system.

3350

3351 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does  
3352 not include payments to school readiness program providers for  
3353 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.  
3354 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or  
3355 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3356 Section 55. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection  
3357 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,  
3358 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3359 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness program  
3360 market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3361 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for  
3362 the adoption of a market rate schedule. The schedule must  
3363 include, at a minimum, county-by-county rates:

3364 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum

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3365 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality  
3366 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting  
3367 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
3368 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3369 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not  
3370 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3371 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3372 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not limited  
3373 to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality Care  
3374 designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its accrediting  
3375 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
3376 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.  
3377 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure  
3378 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from  
3379 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal  
3380 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home  
3381 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed  
3382 or registered under s. 402.313.

3383 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an  
3384 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.  
3385 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
3386 average market rate ~~and~~ include the projected number of  
3387 children to be served by each county and be submitted for  
3388 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care  
3389 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of  
3390 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3391 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more  
3392 qualified entities to administer this section and provide  
3393 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

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3394           (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing  
3395 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market  
3396 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by  
3397 program care level and provider type in a predetermined  
3398 geographic market, and the publication of the market rate  
3399 schedule.

3400           Section 56. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3401 to read:

3402           1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment; penalties.-

3403           (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an  
3404 intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a  
3405 person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or  
3406 misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that  
3407 person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the  
3408 commission of such an act. The term includes any act that  
3409 constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3410           (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,  
3411 the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning  
3412 coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness  
3413 program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
3414 determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own  
3415 inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~  
3416 has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has  
3417 engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall  
3418 investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred  
3419 due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the  
3420 department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic  
3421 benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who  
3422 may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the

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3423 disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits  
3424 authorizations to recipients.

3425 (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the  
3426 department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the  
3427 investigation to the Department of Financial Services for  
3428 criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable  
3429 coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the  
3430 department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of  
3431 Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3432 (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a  
3433 provider from participation in the school readiness program or  
3434 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has  
3435 reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed  
3436 fraud. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt by rule appropriate due  
3437 process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply  
3438 in suspending or terminating any provider, including the  
3439 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider  
3440 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation  
3441 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,  
3442 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent  
3443 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3444 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary  
3445 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,  
3446 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,  
3447 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of  
3448 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or  
3449 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been  
3450 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo  
3451 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance

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3452 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall  
3453 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that  
3454 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition  
3455 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,  
3456 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider  
3457 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo  
3458 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance  
3459 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3460 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise  
3461 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation  
3462 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate  
3463 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,  
3464 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems  
3465 appropriate.

3466 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a  
3467 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3468 Education Program provider who is on the United States  
3469 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In  
3470 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that  
3471 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the  
3472 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified  
3473 List.

3474 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-fraud  
3475 plan addressing the detection and prevention of overpayments,  
3476 abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and payment for  
3477 school readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
3478 Program services and submit the plan to the department ~~office~~  
3479 for approval. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3480 establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan, including



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3481 appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud plan must  
3482 include, at a minimum:

3483 (a) A written description or chart outlining the  
3484 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are  
3485 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible  
3486 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3487 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting  
3488 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3489 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the  
3490 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to  
3491 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3492 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for  
3493 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent  
3494 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3495 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the  
3496 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department  
3497 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness  
3498 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a  
3499 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes  
3500 has committed fraud.

3501 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in this  
3502 section is subject to the penalties provided in s. 414.39(5)(a)  
3503 and (b).

3504 Section 57. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),  
3505 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida  
3506 Statutes, are amended to read:

3507 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
3508 referral.—

3509 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the

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3510 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care  
3511 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides  
3512 referrals to families for child care and information on  
3513 available community resources. Preference shall be given to  
3514 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and  
3515 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply  
3516 with the requirements to offer the resource information  
3517 component or does not want to offer that service, the early  
3518 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency  
3519 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement  
3520 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

3521 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency  
3522 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or  
3523 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3524 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral  
3525 services offered through child care resource and referral  
3526 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at  
3527 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents  
3528 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff  
3529 training requirements.

3530 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall provide  
3531 the following services:

3532 (a) Identification of existing public and private child  
3533 care and early childhood education services, including child  
3534 care services by public and private employers, and the  
3535 development of an early learning provider performance profile ~~a~~  
3536 ~~resource file~~ of those services through the single statewide  
3537 information system developed by the department ~~office~~ under s.  
3538 1002.82(2)(g) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services may include

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3539 family day care, public and private child care programs, the  
3540 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the  
3541 school readiness program, special education programs for  
3542 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for  
3543 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-  
3544 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and  
3545 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~  
3546 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The  
3547 early learning provider performance profile resource file shall  
3548 include, but not be limited to:

- 3549 1. Type of program.
- 3550 2. Hours of service.
- 3551 3. Ages of children served.
- 3552 4. Number of children served.
- 3553 5. Program information.
- 3554 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 3555 7. Availability of transportation.
- 3556 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if  
3557 applicable.
- 3558 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
- 3559 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3560 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68  
3561 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,  
3562 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,  
3563 if applicable.
- 3564 11. The school readiness program assessment composite score  
3565 and program assessment care level composite score results  
3566 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and  
3567 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

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3568 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,  
3569 if applicable.

3570 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a  
3571 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the  
3572 curriculum, if applicable.

3573 14. Participation in the school readiness child assessment  
3574 under s. 1002.82.

3575 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for  
3576 service tabulated through the internal referral process through  
3577 the single statewide information system. The following  
3578 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the  
3579 child care resource and referral network:

3580 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource  
3581 information and referral network component by type of service  
3582 requested.

3583 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3584 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3585 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and  
3586 swing shift.

3587 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3588 6. Customer service survey data required under s.  
3589 1002.82 (3) ~~Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~  
3590 ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

3591 (d) Assistance to families that connects them to parent  
3592 education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,  
3593 or social services programs that support families with children,  
3594 and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~  
3595 ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~  
3596 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

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3597 ~~1. Information on initiating new child care services,~~  
3598 ~~zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in~~  
3599 ~~finding such information from other sources.~~

3600 ~~2. Information and resources which help existing child care~~  
3601 ~~services providers to maximize their ability to serve children~~  
3602 ~~and parents in their community.~~

3603 ~~3. Information and incentives that may help existing or~~  
3604 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~  
3605 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~  
3606 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~  
3607 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~  
3608 ~~businesses.~~

3609 Section 58. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida  
3610 Statutes, is amended to read:

3611 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

3612 (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning  
3613 coalition to establish school readiness program transportation  
3614 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are  
3615 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to  
3616 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the  
3617 provision of transportation services as required by this  
3618 section.

3619 Section 59. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

3620 Section 60. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3621 to read:

3622 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)  
3623 scholarship program.—

3624 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the  
3625 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps

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3626 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational  
3627 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood  
3628 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care  
3629 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and  
3630 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child  
3631 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the  
3632 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood  
3633 education.

3634 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3635 as necessary to administer this section.

3636 Section 61. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,  
3637 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3638 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

3639 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department  
3640 ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants  
3641 to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs  
3642 through Early Head Start program federal grants. The  
3643 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds  
3644 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been  
3645 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3646 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for  
3647 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the  
3648 administration of the collaboration grants program under this  
3649 section.

3650 Section 62. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection  
3651 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3652 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness  
3653 program.—

3654 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the

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3655 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an  
3656 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are  
3657 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I  
3658 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records  
3659 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher  
3660 observations, and personal identifying information.

3661 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3662 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early  
3663 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of  
3664 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department  
3665 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness  
3666 program.

3667  
3668 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school  
3669 readiness program records in order to carry out their official  
3670 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit  
3671 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school  
3672 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than  
3673 those authorized to receive the records.

3674 Section 63. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,  
3675 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3676 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards  
3677 and career pathways.—

3678 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3679 (a) Develop early learning professional development  
3680 training and course standards to be utilized for school  
3681 readiness program providers.

3682 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning career  
3683 pathways with stackable credentials and certifications that

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3684 allow early childhood teachers to access specialized  
3685 professional development that:

- 3686 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.
- 3687 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core  
3688 competencies.
- 3689 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based  
3690 stackable credentials and certifications.
- 3691 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten  
3692 readiness and early grade success.

3693 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules  
3694 to administer this section.

3695 Section 64. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended  
3696 to read:

3697 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of  
3698 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;  
3699 Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

3700 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate  
3701 articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20  
3702 ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening  
3703 relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,  
3704 between public and private organizations, and between the  
3705 education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The  
3706 purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these  
3707 relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective  
3708 progression and transfer of students within the education system  
3709 and to allow students to proceed toward their educational  
3710 objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The  
3711 Legislature further intends that articulation policies and  
3712 budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of



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3713 the Department of Education and postsecondary educational  
3714 institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts  
3715 of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3716 (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the  
3717 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall  
3718 collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from  
3719 statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner  
3720 of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System  
3721 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The  
3722 policies shall relate to:

3723 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one  
3724 education system and the admissions requirements of another  
3725 education system into which students typically transfer.

3726 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of  
3727 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course  
3728 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such  
3729 institutions.

3730 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education  
3731 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public  
3732 postsecondary educational institutions.

3733 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3734 (e) Articulation agreements.

3735 (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the  
3736 Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish the  
3737 Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make  
3738 recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and  
3739 issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data  
3740 maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established  
3741 pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education

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3742 Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the  
3743 Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members  
3744 each representing the State University System, the Florida  
3745 College System, public career and technical education, K-12  
3746 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member  
3747 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the  
3748 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide  
3749 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3750 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of  
3751 one education system and the admissions requirements of another  
3752 education system into which students typically transfer and make  
3753 recommendations for improvement.

3754 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements  
3755 between and among public schools, career and technical education  
3756 centers, Florida College System institutions, state  
3757 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3758 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high  
3759 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State  
3760 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3761 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement  
3762 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3763 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,  
3764 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit  
3765 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions  
3766 participating in the statewide course numbering system and  
3767 identify instances of student transfer and admissions  
3768 difficulties.

3769 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common  
3770 general education and common degree program prerequisite

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3771 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified  
3772 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3773 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide  
3774 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
3775 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and  
3776 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,  
3777 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3778 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public  
3779 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide  
3780 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant  
3781 to s. 1006.735.

3782 Section 65. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is created  
3783 to read:

3784 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3785 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
3786 Program through grade 3.—

3787 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and  
3788 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary  
3789 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide  
3790 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate  
3791 grade-level standards and to provide information on their  
3792 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program  
3793 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3794 Education Program providers and school districts to improve  
3795 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning  
3796 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and  
3797 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,  
3798 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure  
3799 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress

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3800 monitoring program must:

3801 (a) Assess the progress of students in the Voluntary  
3802 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the  
3803 appropriate expectations in emergent literacy and math skills  
3804 and in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.  
3805 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.

3806 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary  
3807 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3808 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each  
3809 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on  
3810 each kindergarten student's progress monitoring results within  
3811 the first 30 days of enrollment in accordance with paragraph  
3812 (2)(a). The methodology for determining a student's readiness  
3813 for kindergarten shall be developed by the same independent  
3814 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

3815 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of  
3816 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
3817 through grade 3.

3818 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to  
3819 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.  
3820 1008.25(4).

3821 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular  
3822 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state  
3823 levels.

3824 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and  
3825 development of educational programs and policies.

3826 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a statewide,  
3827 standardized coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3828 program to assess early literacy and mathematics skills and the

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3829 English Language Arts and mathematics standards established in  
3830 ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, respectively. The coordinated  
3831 screening and progress monitoring program must provide interval  
3832 level and norm-referenced data that measures equivalent levels  
3833 of growth; be a developmentally appropriate, valid, and reliable  
3834 direct assessment; be able to capture data on students who may  
3835 be performing below grade or developmental level and which may  
3836 enable the identification of early indicators of dyslexia or  
3837 other developmental delays; accurately measure the core content  
3838 in the applicable grade level standards; document learning gains  
3839 for the achievement of these standards; and provide teachers  
3840 with progress monitoring supports and materials that enhance  
3841 differentiated instruction and parent communication.

3842 Participation in the coordinated screening and progress  
3843 monitoring program is mandatory for all students in the  
3844 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and enrolled in a  
3845 public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The coordinated  
3846 screening and progress monitoring program shall be implemented  
3847 beginning in the 2022-2023 school year for students in the  
3848 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and kindergarten  
3849 students, as follows:

3850 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3851 program shall be administered within the first 30 days after  
3852 enrollment, midyear, and within the last 30 days of the program  
3853 or school year, in accordance with the rules adopted by the  
3854 State Board of Education. The state board may adopt alternate  
3855 timeframes to address nontraditional school year calendars or  
3856 summer programs to ensure that the coordinated screening and  
3857 progress monitoring program is administered a minimum of 3 times

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3858 within a year or program.

3859 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress  
3860 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in  
3861 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and  
3862 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3863 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3864 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Council for  
3865 Early Grade Success, for implementing the coordinated screening  
3866 and progress monitoring program in consideration of timelines  
3867 for implementing new early literacy and mathematics skills and  
3868 the English Language Arts and mathematics standards established  
3869 in ss. 1002.67(1) (a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3870 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to  
3871 the Council for Early Grade Success.

3872 (4) The Council for Early Grade Success, a council defined  
3873 in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of Education to  
3874 oversee the coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
3875 program and, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall  
3876 operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3877 (a) The council shall be responsible for reviewing the  
3878 implementation of, training for, administration of, and outcomes  
3879 from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program  
3880 to provide recommendations to the department that supports grade  
3881 3 students reading at or above grade level. The council, at a  
3882 minimum, shall:

3883 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the  
3884 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including  
3885 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria  
3886 before being published.

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- 3887       2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.
- 3888       3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and  
3889 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated  
3890 screening and progress monitoring program.
- 3891       4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a  
3892 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under  
3893 s. 1002.68.
- 3894       5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.  
3895 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a  
3896 child's kindergarten readiness.
- 3897       6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade  
3898 level that a student would need to attain in order to  
3899 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.
- 3900       7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of  
3901 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for  
3902 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
3903 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department  
3904 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read  
3905 at or above grade level.
- 3906       (b) The council shall be composed of 15 members who are  
3907 residents of this state and appointed, notwithstanding any other  
3908 provision of law, as follows:
- 3909       1. Two members appointed by the Governor, as follows:  
3910       a. One representative from the Department of Education.  
3911       b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.
- 3912       2. Thirteen members appointed jointly by the President of  
3913 the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, as  
3914 follows:
- 3915       a. One representative of an urban school district.

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- 3916 b. One representative of a rural school district.
- 3917 c. One representative of an urban early learning coalition.
- 3918 d. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.
- 3919 e. One representative of an early learning provider.
- 3920 f. One representative of a faith-based early learning
- 3921 provider.
- 3922 g. One representative who is a kindergarten teacher who has
- 3923 at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3924 h. One representative who is a second grade teacher who has
- 3925 at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3926 i. One representative who is a school principal.
- 3927 j. Four representatives with subject matter expertise in
- 3928 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The
- 3929 four representatives with subject matter expertise may not be
- 3930 direct stakeholders within the early learning or public school
- 3931 systems or potential recipients of a contract resulting from the
- 3932 committee's recommendations.
- 3933 (5) The council shall elect a chair and a vice chair, one
- 3934 of whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in
- 3935 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The
- 3936 vice chair must be a member appointed by the President of the
- 3937 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives who is
- 3938 not one of the four members with subject matter expertise in
- 3939 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments
- 3940 appointed pursuant to sub-subparagraph (b)2.j. Members of the
- 3941 council shall serve without compensation but are entitled to
- 3942 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
- 3943 112.061.
- 3944 (6) The council must meet at least biannually and may meet



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3945 by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible, to  
3946 reduce costs.

3947 (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3948 Section 66. Present paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection  
3949 (5) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
3950 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is  
3951 added to that subsection, and paragraph (b) of subsection (6),  
3952 subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) are amended,  
3953 to read:

3954 1008.25 Public school student progression; student support;  
3955 reporting requirements.—

3956 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

3957 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student  
3958 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills  
3959 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and  
3960 based upon the results of the administration of the final  
3961 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125  
3962 shall be referred to the local school district and may be  
3963 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before  
3964 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading  
3965 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's  
3966 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with  
3967 s. 1011.62(9).

3968 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

3969 (b) The district school board may only exempt students from  
3970 mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c) ~~(5)(b)~~, for  
3971 good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4 with a good  
3972 cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading instruction  
3973 and intervention that include specialized diagnostic information

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3974 and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of each  
3975 student so promoted. The school district shall assist schools  
3976 and teachers with the implementation of explicit, systematic,  
3977 and multisensory reading instruction and intervention strategies  
3978 for students promoted with a good cause exemption which research  
3979 has shown to be successful in improving reading among students  
3980 who have reading difficulties. Good cause exemptions are limited  
3981 to the following:

3982 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less  
3983 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other  
3984 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a  
3985 school in the United States.

3986 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education  
3987 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment  
3988 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of  
3989 s. 1008.212.

3990 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of  
3991 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English  
3992 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of  
3993 Education.

3994 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio  
3995 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the  
3996 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

3997 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,  
3998 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an  
3999 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects  
4000 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading  
4001 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still  
4002 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in

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4003 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

4004         6. Students who have received intensive reading  
4005 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a  
4006 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in  
4007 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2  
4008 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

4009         (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE  
4010 STUDENTS.—

4011         (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must be  
4012 provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the  
4013 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student  
4014 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must  
4015 include:

4016             1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
4017 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,  
4018 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by  
4019 the school district.

4020             2. Participation in the school district's summer reading  
4021 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention  
4022 strategies under subparagraph 1.

4023             3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading  
4024 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention  
4025 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

4026                 a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social  
4027 studies within the 90-minute block.

4028                 b. Small group instruction.

4029                 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4030                 d. More frequent progress monitoring.

4031                 e. Tutoring or mentoring.

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4032 f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade  
4033 students.

4034 g. Extended school day, week, or year.

4035 (b) Each school district shall:

4036 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student  
4037 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her  
4038 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion  
4039 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause  
4040 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must  
4041 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a  
4042 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be  
4043 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of  
4044 reading deficiency.

4045 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a  
4046 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can  
4047 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent  
4048 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,  
4049 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,  
4050 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.  
4051 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student  
4052 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative  
4053 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of  
4054 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the  
4055 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels  
4056 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning  
4057 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
4058 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation  
4059 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate  
4060 grade 4 level reading skills.

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4061 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph (5) (c)  
4062 ~~(5) (b)~~, including students participating in the school  
4063 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a  
4064 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's  
4065 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,  
4066 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4067 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive  
4068 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3  
4069 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade  
4070 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the  
4071 following:

4072 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of  
4073 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the  
4074 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core  
4075 subject areas through content-rich texts.

4076 b. Small group instruction.

4077 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4078 d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
4079 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,  
4080 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language  
4081 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating  
4082 student reading achievement within the same school year.

4083 e. A read-at-home plan.

4084 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4085 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5) (c)  
4086 ~~(5) (b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the  
4087 parent of each student the progress of the student toward  
4088 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in  
4089 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.

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4090 The district school board must report to the parent the  
4091 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.  
4092 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the  
4093 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and  
4094 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided  
4095 under paragraph (5) (a), and other relevant information. Progress  
4096 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format  
4097 adopted by the district school board.

4098 Section 67. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended  
4099 to read:

4100 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education  
4101 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,  
4102 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.-

4103 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.-It is the intent of the Legislature  
4104 that:

4105 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to  
4106 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20  
4107 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following  
4108 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4109 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it  
4110 invests in education?

4111 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
4112 education system educating its students?

4113 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors promoting  
4114 student achievement?

4115 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education  
4116 institutions performing their responsibility to educate their  
4117 students as measured by how students are performing and how much  
4118 they are learning?

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4119 (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance  
4120 accountability system be established as a single, unified  
4121 accountability system with multiple components, including, but  
4122 not limited to, student performance in public schools and school  
4123 and district grades.

4124 (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system  
4125 comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of  
4126 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with  
4127 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4128 (d) The early learning accountability system comply with  
4129 the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the  
4130 requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust  
4131 Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4132 (e)~~(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of  
4133 Governors of the State University System recommend to the  
4134 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature  
4135 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the  
4136 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with  
4137 information on what the public is receiving in return for the  
4138 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20  
4139 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4140 (f) 1.~~(e) 1.~~ The State Board of Education establish  
4141 performance measures and set performance standards for  
4142 individual public schools and Florida College System  
4143 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on  
4144 student achievement.

4145 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System  
4146 establish performance measures and set performance standards for  
4147 individual state universities, including actual completion

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4148 rates.

4149 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4150 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~  
4151 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all  
4152 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them  
4153 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through  
4154 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,  
4155 and communities.

4156 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific  
4157 standards and measures must be:

- 4158 1. Focused on student success.
- 4159 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 4160 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 4161 4. Measurable over time.
- 4162 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 4163 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to support  
4164 a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4165 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an  
4166 accountability system that measures student progress toward the  
4167 following goals:

- 4168 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence of  
4169 student learning gains at all levels.
- 4170 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured by  
4171 evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted  
4172 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4173 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured  
4174 by evidence of employment and earnings.
- 4175 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of  
4176 return on investment.



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4177 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4178 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide  
4179 data required to implement education performance accountability  
4180 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education  
4181 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality  
4182 and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to  
4183 the department all data within the State University Database  
4184 System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data  
4185 warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such  
4186 data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual  
4187 and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college  
4188 readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions  
4189 shall annually provide data from the prior year to the  
4190 educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse in a format based on data  
4191 elements identified by the commissioner.

4192 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational  
4193 institutions shall maintain information systems that will  
4194 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of  
4195 the State University System, and the Legislature with  
4196 information and reports necessary to address the specifications  
4197 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and  
4198 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June  
4199 30, 2001.

4200 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in  
4201 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education  
4202 Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the  
4203 prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format  
4204 prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data  
4205 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer

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4206 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and  
4207 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each  
4208 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph  
4209 shall report the data to the department.

4210 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the  
4211 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and  
4212 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to  
4213 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the  
4214 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the  
4215 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators  
4216 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary  
4217 educational institutions.

4218 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data  
4219 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing  
4220 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize  
4221 paperwork.

4222 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
4223 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the  
4224 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data  
4225 warehouse.

4226 Section 68. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended  
4227 to read:

4228 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement  
4229 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the  
4230 performance of early learning coalitions, district school  
4231 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of  
4232 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school  
4233 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees  
4234 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state

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4235 board rule.

4236 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board  
4237 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to  
4238 request and receive information, data, and reports from early  
4239 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College  
4240 System institutions. Early learning coalition chief executive  
4241 officers or executive directors, district school  
4242 superintendents, and Florida College System institution  
4243 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information  
4244 and data reported to the state board.

4245 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate  
4246 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and  
4247 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report  
4248 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education  
4249 which shall require the early learning coalition, district  
4250 school board, or Florida College System institution board of  
4251 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4252 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the State  
4253 Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General that an  
4254 early learning coalition, a district school board, or Florida  
4255 College System institution is acting without statutory authority  
4256 or contrary to general law. The State Board of Education shall  
4257 require the early learning coalition, district school board, or  
4258 Florida College System institution board of trustees to document  
4259 compliance with such law.

4260 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school board,  
4261 or Florida College System institution board of trustees cannot  
4262 satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of Education  
4263 may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

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4264 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an  
4265 early learning coalition, ~~a~~ district school board, or Florida  
4266 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or  
4267 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the  
4268 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to  
4269 initiate any of the following actions:

4270 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning  
4271 coalition, school district, or Florida College System  
4272 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state  
4273 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4274 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary  
4275 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds  
4276 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until  
4277 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida  
4278 College System institution complies with the law or state board  
4279 rule.

4280 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,  
4281 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive  
4282 grants.

4283 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation  
4284 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4285 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a  
4286 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or  
4287 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4288 Section 69. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
4289 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4290 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4291 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a  
4292 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.

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4293 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the  
4294 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school  
4295 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the  
4296 accountability requirements of the state school system and may  
4297 impose state requirements on school districts in order to  
4298 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and  
4299 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early  
4300 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal  
4301 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility  
4302 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of  
4303 Education.

4304 Section 70. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida  
4305 Statutes, is amended to read:

4306 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual  
4307 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
4308 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
4309 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
4310 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
4311 follows:

4312 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4313 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is  
4314 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students  
4315 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who  
4316 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed  
4317 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s.  
4318 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the  
4319 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year  
4320 average of the state reading assessment data must use the  
4321 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour

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4322 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in  
4323 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the  
4324 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a  
4325 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English  
4326 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may  
4327 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional  
4328 student education centers may not be included in the 300  
4329 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this  
4330 additional hour shall include: research-based reading  
4331 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of  
4332 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated  
4333 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,  
4334 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading  
4335 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop  
4336 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and  
4337 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided  
4338 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of  
4339 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text  
4340 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4341 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading  
4342 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district  
4343 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each  
4344 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount  
4345 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any  
4346 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school  
4347 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of  
4348 K-12 base funding.

4349 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to  
4350 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to

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4351 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who  
4352 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed  
4353 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.  
4354 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4355 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive  
4356 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing  
4357 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have  
4358 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in  
4359 paragraph (a).

4360 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based ~~reading~~  
4361 ~~intervention teachers to provide~~ intensive reading interventions  
4362 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during  
4363 the school day and in the required extra hour for students  
4364 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4365 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically support  
4366 teachers in making instructional decisions based on student  
4367 data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading  
4368 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas  
4369 based on student need.

4370 4. Professional development for school district teachers in  
4371 scientifically based reading instruction, including strategies  
4372 to teach reading in content areas and with an emphasis on  
4373 technical and informational text, to help school district  
4374 teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in reading.

4375 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other  
4376 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading  
4377 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in  
4378 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading  
4379 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~

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4380 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the  
4381 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and  
4382 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early  
4383 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
4384 Program under s. 1008.25(5) (b).

4385 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based  
4386 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~  
4387 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just  
4388 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4389 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in  
4390 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having  
4391 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as  
4392 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
4393 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial  
4394 deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary  
4395 Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1008.25(5) (b).

4396 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of  
4397 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~  
4398 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-  
4399 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by  
4400 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,  
4401 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan  
4402 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved  
4403 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a  
4404 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach  
4405 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may  
4406 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School  
4407 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing  
4408 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading



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4409 intervention through innovative methods, including career  
4410 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from  
4411 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,  
4412 and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through  
4413 integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-  
4414 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher  
4415 who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must  
4416 incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just  
4417 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than  
4418 July 1 annually, the department shall release the school  
4419 district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts  
4420 having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent  
4421 of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have  
4422 been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold  
4423 funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation  
4424 funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The  
4425 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each  
4426 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting  
4427 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.  
4428 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its  
4429 findings to the Legislature.

4430 2. Each school district that has a school designated as one  
4431 of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified in  
4432 paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the comprehensive  
4433 reading plan, or in an addendum to the comprehensive reading  
4434 plan, the implementation design and reading intervention  
4435 strategies that will be used for the required additional hour of  
4436 reading instruction. The term "reading intervention" includes  
4437 evidence-based strategies frequently used to remediate reading

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4438 deficiencies and also includes individual instruction, tutoring,  
4439 mentoring, or the use of technology that targets specific  
4440 reading skills and abilities.

4441  
4442 For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means  
4443 demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving  
4444 student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4445 Section 71. For the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the sum of  
4446 \$3,088,000 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
4447 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement the  
4448 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program required  
4449 by s. 1008.2125, Florida Statutes. Of these funds, \$3 million  
4450 shall be placed in reserve. The department is authorized to  
4451 submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds  
4452 pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes. The budget amendment  
4453 shall include a detailed operational work plan and spending  
4454 plan. The department shall submit quarterly updates to the plans  
4455 and quarterly project status reports to the Office of Policy and  
4456 Budget in the Executive Office of the Governor and the chairs of  
4457 the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the House of  
4458 Representatives Appropriations Committee. Each status report  
4459 must include progress made to date for each project activity,  
4460 planned and actual tasks and deliverable completion dates,  
4461 planned and actual costs incurred, and any current issues and  
4462 risks.

4463 Section 72. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of  
4464 \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General  
4465 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to issue a  
4466 competitive solicitation to contract with an independent third

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4467 party consulting firm to conduct a review of the school  
4468 readiness payment rates by county, provider type, and care  
4469 level. The review shall include an evaluation of the current  
4470 methodology for establishing the market rate schedule pursuant  
4471 to s. 1002.895, Florida Statutes, the current school readiness  
4472 payment rates, and the impact of the approved pay differentials  
4473 authorized under part VI of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, on  
4474 the payment rates. The review shall include recommendations on a  
4475 methodology for setting the payment rates by county, by provider  
4476 type, and by care level that takes into consideration the impact  
4477 that local ordinances may have on the market rate if such  
4478 ordinances require more stringent staff-to-child ratios than  
4479 required in s. 402.305(4), Florida Statutes, but may not  
4480 consider school readiness wait lists as a factor. The department  
4481 shall submit the results of the review and the recommendations  
4482 to the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget and the chairs of  
4483 the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the House of  
4484 Representatives Appropriations Committee by January 1, 2022.

4485 Section 73. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of  
4486 \$677,759 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
4487 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to assist in the  
4488 implementation of s. 1002.68(2), Florida Statutes.

4489 Section 74. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.