

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Grall offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(5) EDUCATIONAL STABILITY.—Just as educational stability is important for school-age children, it is also important to minimize disruptions to secure attachments and stable relationships with supportive caregivers of children from birth to school age and to ensure that these attachments are not

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14 disrupted due to placement in out-of-home care or subsequent  
15 changes in out-of-home placement.

16 (b) If it is not in the best interest of the child for him  
17 or her to remain in his or her child care or early education  
18 setting upon entry into out-of-home care, the caregiver must  
19 work with the case manager, guardian ad litem, child care and  
20 educational staff, and educational surrogate, if one has been  
21 appointed, to determine the best setting for the child. Such  
22 setting may be a child care provider that receives a Gold Seal  
23 Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, a  
24 ~~provider participating in a quality rating system~~, a licensed  
25 child care provider, a public school provider, or a license-  
26 exempt child care provider, including religious-exempt and  
27 registered providers, and nonpublic schools.

28 Section 2. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section  
29 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and  
31 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the  
32 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the  
33 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following  
34 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this  
35 chapter.

36 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

37 (m) *Educational materials purchased by certain child care*  
38 *facilities*.—Educational materials, such as glue, paper, paints,

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39 crayons, unique craft items, scissors, books, and educational  
40 toys, purchased by a child care facility that meets the  
41 standards delineated in s. 402.305, is licensed under s.  
42 402.308, holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation  
43 pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, and provides basic health  
44 insurance to all employees are exempt from the taxes imposed by  
45 this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "basic  
46 health insurance" shall be defined and promulgated in rules  
47 developed jointly by the Office of Early Learning ~~Department of~~  
48 ~~Children and Families~~, the Agency for Health Care  
49 Administration, and the Financial Services Commission.

50 Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 402.26, Florida  
51 Statutes, is amended to read:

52 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

53 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~  
54 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~  
55 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~  
56 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~  
57 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~  
58 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~  
59 ~~196.198.~~

60 Section 4. Type two transfer from the Department of  
61 Children and Families.—

62 (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,  
63 personnel, associated administrative support positions,

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64 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative  
65 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of  
66 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the  
67 Gold Seal Quality Care program within the Department of Children  
68 and Families are transferred by a type two transfer, as defined  
69 in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes, to the Office of Early  
70 Learning.

71 (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing  
72 before July 1, 2020, between the Department of Children and  
73 Families, or an entity or agent of the department, and any other  
74 agency, entity, or person relating to the Gold Seal Quality Care  
75 program shall continue as a binding contract or agreement for  
76 the remainder of the term of such contract or agreement on the  
77 successor entity responsible for the program, activity, or  
78 functions relative to the contract or agreement.

79 Section 5. Subsection (5) of section 402.315, Florida  
80 Statutes, is amended to read:

81 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

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

87 Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 1001.213, Florida  
88 Statutes, is amended to read:

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89 1001.213 Office of Early Learning.—There is created within  
90 the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice the  
91 Office of Early Learning, as required under s. 20.15, which  
92 shall be administered by an executive director. The office shall  
93 be fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education but shall:

94 (4) In compliance with parts V and VI of chapter 1002 and  
95 its powers and duties under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, administer  
96 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the state  
97 level.

98 Section 7. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida  
99 Statutes, is amended to read:

100 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in  
101 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The  
102 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and  
103 shall:

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

107 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida  
108 Statutes, is amended to read:

109 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of  
110 Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law  
111 or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department  
112 shall:

113 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~

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114 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

115 Section 9. Subsections (3) and (10) of section 1002.32,  
116 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

117 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

118 (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the  
119 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,  
120 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,  
121 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school  
122 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.  
123 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an  
124 appropriate education for its students.

125 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics, science,  
126 computer science, and foreign languages. The primary goal of a  
127 lab school is to enhance instruction and research in such  
128 specialized subjects by using the resources available on a state  
129 university campus, while also providing an education in  
130 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide  
131 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where  
132 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade  
133 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State  
134 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement  
135 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

136 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
137 lab school may be generated by the college of education and  
138 other colleges within the university with which the school is

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139 affiliated.

140 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
141 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.  
142 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education  
143 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the  
144 affiliated college.

145 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a  
146 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the  
147 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the  
148 Legislature.

149 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab  
150 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals  
151 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.  
152 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education  
153 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the  
154 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

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

159 (a) The methods and requirements of the following statutes  
160 shall be held in abeyance: ss. 316.75; 1001.30; 1001.31;  
161 1001.32; 1001.33; 1001.34; 1001.35; 1001.36; 1001.361; 1001.362;  
162 1001.363; 1001.37; 1001.371; 1001.372; 1001.38; 1001.39;  
163 1001.395; 1001.40; 1001.41; 1001.44; 1001.453; 1001.46;

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164 1001.461; 1001.462; 1001.463; 1001.464; 1001.47; 1001.48;  
165 1001.49; 1001.50; 1001.51; 1006.12(2); 1006.21(3), (4); 1006.23;  
166 1010.07(2); 1010.40; 1010.41; 1010.42; 1010.43; 1010.44;  
167 1010.45; 1010.46; 1010.47; 1010.48; 1010.49; 1010.50; 1010.51;  
168 1010.52; 1010.53; 1010.54; 1010.55; 1011.02(1)-(3), (5);  
169 1011.04; 1011.20; 1011.21; 1011.22; 1011.23; 1011.71; 1011.72;  
170 1011.73; and 1011.74.

171 (b) With the exception of s. 1001.42(18), s. 1001.42 shall  
172 be held in abeyance. Reference to district school boards in s.  
173 1001.42(18) shall mean the president of the university or the  
174 president's designee.

175 Section 10. Subsection (5) and paragraph (c) of subsection  
176 (6) of section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
177 paragraph (d) is added to subsection (6) of that section, to  
178 read:

179 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
180 eligibility and enrollment.—

181 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent  
182 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
183 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider  
184 and public school delivering the program within the county where  
185 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to  
186 parents in a format prescribed by the Office of Early Learning  
187 in accordance with s. 1002.92(3). ~~The profiles must include, at~~  
188 ~~a minimum, the following information about each provider and~~

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189 ~~school:~~190 ~~(a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,~~  
191 ~~instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and~~192 ~~(b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate~~  
193 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most~~  
194 ~~recent available results of the statewide kindergarten~~  
195 ~~screening.~~

196 (6)

197 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public  
198 school must comply with the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 in  
199 accordance with chapter 760 ~~antidiscrimination requirements of~~  
200 ~~42 U.S.C. s. 2000d, regardless of whether the provider or school~~  
201 ~~receives federal financial assistance. A private prekindergarten~~  
202 ~~provider or public school may not discriminate against a parent~~  
203 ~~or child, including the refusal to admit a child for enrollment~~  
204 ~~in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, in violation~~  
205 ~~of chapter 760 these antidiscrimination requirements.~~206 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the  
207 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or  
208 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and  
209 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.210 Section 11. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (g), (i), and (l) of  
211 subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph (b) of subsection  
212 (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
213 subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

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214 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
215 private prekindergarten providers.—

216 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
217 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
218 following requirements:

219 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child  
220 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home  
221 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed  
222 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under  
223 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from  
224 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program accredited  
225 by a national accrediting body and operating on a military  
226 installation certified by the United States Department of  
227 Defense, or private prekindergarten provider issued a  
228 provisional license under s. 402.309. A private prekindergarten  
229 provider may not deliver the program while holding a probation-  
230 status license under s. 402.310.

231 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

232 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a  
233 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,  
234 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be  
235 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,  
236 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central  
237 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States  
238 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association

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239 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation  
240 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements  
241 under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at  
242 least one onsite visit to the provider or school before  
243 accreditation is granted;

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

246 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.  
247 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary  
248 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early  
249 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the  
250 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not  
251 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background  
252 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)  
253 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),  
254 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a  
255 developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

256 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for  
257 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one  
258 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following  
259 requirements:

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

262 a. A child development associate credential issued by the  
263 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional

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264 Recognition; or  
265       b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and  
266 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential  
267 described in sub-subparagraph a.

268  
269 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under  
270 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures  
271 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

272       2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully  
273 complete three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses that  
274 include developmentally appropriate and experiential learning  
275 practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance  
276 standards training course approved by the office as meeting or  
277 exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.59. The  
278 prekindergarten instructor must complete an emergent literacy  
279 training course at least once every 5 years after initially  
280 completing the three emergent literacy training courses. The  
281 courses in this subparagraph must be recognized as part of the  
282 informal early learning and career pathway identified by the  
283 office under s. 1002.995(1)(b). The requirement for completion  
284 of the standards training course shall take effect July 1, 2022.  
285 ~~2014,~~ and The courses must ~~course shall~~ be made available online  
286 or in person.

287       (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a  
288 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director

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289 credential that is approved by the office as meeting or  
290 exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. A  
291 private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in  
292 educational leadership issued by the office satisfies the  
293 requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under s.  
294 1002.57 ~~Successful completion of a child care facility director~~  
295 ~~credential under s. 402.305(2)(g) before the establishment of~~  
296 ~~the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July~~  
297 ~~1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a~~  
298 ~~prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.~~

299 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the  
300 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~  
301 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple  
302 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's  
303 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition  
304 on behalf of each site ~~provider~~.

305 (l) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private  
306 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision  
307 thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to  
308 notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage  
309 maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise  
310 established under s. 768.28. The provider shall indemnify the  
311 coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28. Notwithstanding  
312 paragraph (j), for a child development program accredited by a  
313 national accrediting body and operating on a military

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314 installation certified by the United States Department of  
315 Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability coverage by  
316 affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28  
317 U.S.C. s. 2671 et seq.

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

321 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood  
322 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool  
323 education, or family and consumer science;

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

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

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

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

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339 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials  
340 under this paragraph.

341 (5)

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

347 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each  
348 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary  
349 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county  
350 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private  
351 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this  
352 part or engages in misconduct, the office must require the early  
353 learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility to  
354 deliver the program or to receive state funds under this part  
355 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

356 Section 12. Present paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection  
357 (2) of section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
358 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, and a new paragraph (b) is  
359 added to that subsection, to read:

360 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

361 (2) The educational requirements must include training in  
362 the following:

363 (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-

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364 level data to inform the delivery of instruction;

365 Section 13. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended  
366 to read:

367 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards  
368 training courses.—

369 (1) The office shall adopt minimum standards for ~~one or~~  
370 ~~more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for prekindergarten  
371 instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock hours and provide  
372 instruction in strategies and techniques to address the age-  
373 appropriate progress of prekindergarten students in developing  
374 emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,  
375 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological  
376 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development. Each  
377 course must also provide resources containing strategies that  
378 allow students with disabilities and other special needs to  
379 derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
380 Education Program. Successful completion of an emergent literacy  
381 training course approved under this section satisfies  
382 requirements for approved training in early literacy and  
383 language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6), and  
384 402.3131(5).

385 (2) The office shall adopt minimum standards for ~~one or~~  
386 ~~more training~~ courses on the performance standards adopted under  
387 s. 1002.67(1). Each course must comprise at least 3 clock hours,  
388 provide instruction in strategies and techniques to address age-

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389 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the standards,  
390 and be available online.

391 (3) The office shall make available online professional  
392 development and training courses consisting of at least 8 clock  
393 hours that support prekindergarten instructors in increasing the  
394 competency of teacher-child interactions.

395 Section 14. Present subsections (6), (7), and (8) of  
396 section 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
397 subsections (7), (8), and (9), respectively, a new subsection  
398 (6) and subsection (10) are added to that section, and paragraph  
399 (b) of subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection (3), and  
400 subsection (4) of that section are amended, to read:

401 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public  
402 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

403 (1)

404 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the  
405 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or  
406 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a  
407 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private  
408 prekindergarten provider. A child development program accredited  
409 by a national accrediting body and operating on a military  
410 installation certified by the United States Department of  
411 Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten program as a  
412 private prekindergarten provider.

413 (3)

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

419 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),  
420 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must  
421 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one  
422 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds  
423 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)  
424 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"  
425 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate  
426 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the  
427 district school board to instruct students in the summer  
428 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for  
429 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall  
430 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in  
431 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy  
432 and performance standards courses, as described in s.  
433 1002.55(3)(c)2.

434 (6) A child development program accredited by a national  
435 accrediting body and operating on a military installation  
436 certified by the United States Department of Defense shall  
437 comply with the requirements of a private prekindergarten  
438 provider in this section.

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439 (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that  
440 each private prekindergarten provider and public school  
441 delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
442 within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies  
443 with this part.

444 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
445 fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in  
446 misconduct, the office must require the early learning coalition  
447 to remove the provider or school from eligibility to deliver the  
448 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state  
449 funds under this part for a period of at least 2 years but no  
450 more than 5 years.

451 Section 15. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section  
452 1002.63, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (9) is  
453 added to that section, to read:

454 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
455 public schools.—

456 (3)

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

462 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that  
463 each public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten

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464 Education Program within the coalition's service area complies  
465 with this part.

466 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with  
467 this part or engages in misconduct, the office must require the  
468 early learning coalition to remove the school from eligibility  
469 to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or to  
470 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2  
471 years but no more than 5 years.

472 Section 16. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended  
473 to read:

474 1002.67 Performance standards ~~and~~ curricula ~~and~~  
475 ~~accountability.~~

476 (1) (a) The office shall develop and adopt performance  
477 standards for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
478 Education Program. The performance standards must address the  
479 age-appropriate progress of students in the development of:

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

482 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,  
483 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological  
484 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and

485 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.

486  
487 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~  
488 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~

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489 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~  
490 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

491 (b) At least every 3 years, the office shall ~~periodically~~  
492 review and, if necessary, revise the performance standards  
493 established under this section ~~for the statewide kindergarten~~  
494 ~~screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align the standards  
495 to the standards established by the state board for student  
496 performance on the statewide assessments administered pursuant  
497 to s. 1008.22.

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

503 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
504 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and  
505 must:

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

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

511 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated  
512 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening  
513 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 ~~Prepare~~

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514 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~  
515 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

516 (c) The office shall adopt procedures for the review and  
517 approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private prekindergarten  
518 providers and public schools that are placed on probation under  
519 s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4) (c)~~. The office shall administer the  
520 review and approval process and maintain a list of the curricula  
521 approved under this paragraph. Each approved curriculum must  
522 meet the requirements of paragraph (b).

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

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

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

535 ~~(4) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~  
536 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~  
537 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~  
538 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~

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539 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~  
540 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

541 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
542 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~  
543 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~  
544 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~  
545 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~  
546 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~  
547 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

548 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~  
549 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~  
550 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~  
551 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~  
552 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~  
553 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~  
554 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~  
555 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~  
556 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~  
557 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~  
558 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~  
559 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~  
560 ~~office.~~

561 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
562 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~  
563 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~

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564 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~  
565 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~  
566 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~  
567 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~  
568 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~  
569 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~  
570 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
571 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

572 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~  
573 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~  
574 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~  
575 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~  
576 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~  
577 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~  
578 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~  
579 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~  
580 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

581 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~  
582 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~  
583 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~  
584 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~  
585 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~  
586 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~  
587 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~  
588 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

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589 Section 17. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created  
590 to read:

591 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
592 accountability.-

593 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each  
594 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating  
595 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must  
596 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
597 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated  
598 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used  
599 by the office to identify student learning gains, index  
600 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative  
601 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and  
602 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten  
603 provider's and public school's performance metric.

604 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress  
605 monitoring or screening must be administered by individuals  
606 meeting requirements adopted by the department pursuant to s.  
607 1008.2125.

608 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public  
609 school participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
610 Program must provide a student's performance results from the  
611 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's  
612 parents within 7 days after the administration of such  
613 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

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614 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each  
615 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating  
616 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must  
617 participate in a program assessment of each voluntary  
618 prekindergarten education classroom. The program assessment  
619 shall measure the quality of teacher-child interactions,  
620 including emotional support, classroom organization, and  
621 instructional support for children ages 3 to 5 years. Each  
622 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating  
623 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program shall receive  
624 from the office the results of the program assessment for each  
625 classroom within 14 days after the observation. Each early  
626 learning coalition shall be responsible for the administration  
627 of the program assessments, which must be conducted by  
628 individuals qualified to conduct program assessments under s.  
629 1002.82 (2) (n) .

630 (3) (a) For the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 program year, the  
631 office shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each  
632 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating  
633 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program based upon  
634 learning gains and the percentage of students assessed as ready  
635 for kindergarten. The department shall require that each school  
636 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use  
637 before the 2022-2023 school year to each kindergarten student in  
638 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-

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639 2022 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide  
640 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private  
641 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
642 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a  
643 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results  
644 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2021-  
645 2022 program year. Any private prekindergarten provider or  
646 public school participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
647 Education Program which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten  
648 readiness rate for the 2020-2021 program year is subject to the  
649 probation requirements of subsection (5).

650 (b) For the 2022-2023 program year, the office shall  
651 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider  
652 based on the program assessment under subsection (2).

653 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, the  
654 office shall adopt a methodology for calculating each private  
655 prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's  
656 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the  
657 following:

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

660 2. Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability  
661 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results  
662 described in subsection (1).

663 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes

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664 described in subsection (1).

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

669 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance  
670 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or  
671 public school site.

672 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent  
673 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent  
674 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early  
675 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability  
676 systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a  
677 limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the  
678 profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following  
679 designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency,"  
680 "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable  
681 terminology determined by the office which may not include  
682 letter grades. The independent expert may not be a direct  
683 stakeholder or have had a financial interest in the design or  
684 delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or  
685 public school system within the last 5 years.

686 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the office shall provide  
687 for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten provider  
688 and public school based on the provider's designation. The

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689 maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15  
690 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent  
691 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program  
692 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or  
693 public school may not receive a differential payment if it  
694 receives a designation of "proficient" or lower. Before the  
695 adoption of the methodology, the office and the independent  
696 expert shall confer with the Council for Early Grade Success  
697 under s. 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the office for  
698 the final recommendations on the designation system and  
699 differential payments.

700 (f) The office shall adopt procedures to annually  
701 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
702 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in  
703 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph  
704 (d). Beginning with the 2023-2024 program year, each private  
705 prekindergarten provider or public school shall be assigned a  
706 designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-  
707 year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by  
708 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
709 schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the summer  
710 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by all  
711 participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
712 schools.

713 (g) A private prekindergarten provider or public school

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714 designated "proficient," "highly proficient," or "excellent"  
715 demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of  
716 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

717 (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early  
718 learning provider performance profiles required under s.  
719 1002.92 (3) .

720 (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten  
721 provider's program assessment composite score for its  
722 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program  
723 assessment composite score for contracting established by the  
724 office pursuant to s. 1002.82(2) (n), the private prekindergarten  
725 provider or public school may not participate in the Voluntary  
726 Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the consecutive  
727 program year and thereafter until the public school or private  
728 prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite score for  
729 contracting. A public school or private prekindergarten provider  
730 may request one program assessment per program year in order to  
731 requalify for participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
732 Education Program provided that public school or private  
733 prekindergarten provider is not excluded from participation  
734 under ss. 1002.55(6), 1002.61(10) (b), 1002.63(9) (b), or  
735 subparagraph (5) (b). If a public school or private  
736 prekindergarten provider would like an additional program  
737 assessment completed within the same program year then the  
738 public school or private prekindergarten provider shall be

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739 responsible for the cost of the program assessment.

740 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public  
741 school's performance metric or designation falls below the  
742 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning  
743 coalition shall:

744 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval  
745 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and  
746 implement the plan.

747 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

748 3. Require the provider or school to take certain  
749 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved  
750 by the office under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development  
751 plan approved by the office to strengthen instructional  
752 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,  
753 instructional support, language development, phonological  
754 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

755 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
756 placed on probation must continue the corrective actions  
757 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets  
758 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the  
759 office. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs (b)1.  
760 and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's or  
761 school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
762 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more  
763 than 5 years.

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764 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school  
765 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet  
766 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted  
767 a good cause exemption by the office, the office shall require  
768 the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's or  
769 school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
770 Education Program or to receive state funds for the program for  
771 a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

772 (6) (a) The office, upon the request of a private  
773 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
774 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently  
775 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and  
776 for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an  
777 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the  
778 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state  
779 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,  
780 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or  
781 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

782 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public  
783 school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such  
784 an exemption, must be submitted to the office in the manner and  
785 within the timeframes prescribed by the office and must include  
786 the following:

787 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or  
788 public school which documents the achievement and progress of

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789 the children served, as measured by any required screenings or  
790 assessments.

791 2. Data from the program assessment required under  
792 subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices  
793 as recognized by the tool developer.

794 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district  
795 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and  
796 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting  
797 association, as applicable, relating to the private  
798 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with  
799 state and local health and safety standards.

800 (c) The office shall adopt criteria for granting good  
801 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not  
802 limited to, all of the following:

803 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private  
804 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically  
805 significant population of children with special needs who have  
806 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward  
807 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education  
808 plans.

809 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary  
810 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten  
811 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has  
812 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening  
813 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

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814 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which  
815 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the  
816 tool developer.

817 4. Verification that local and state health and safety  
818 requirements are met.

819 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any  
820 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any  
821 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as  
822 defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families,  
823 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request  
824 for the exemption.

825 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school  
826 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its  
827 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required  
828 under paragraph (5)(b) until the provider or school meets the  
829 minimum performance metric.

830 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private  
831 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on  
832 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all  
833 other applicable requirements of this part, the office must  
834 notify the early learning coalition of the good cause exemption  
835 and direct that the early learning coalition not remove the  
836 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary  
837 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for  
838 the program.

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839 (g) The office shall report the number of private  
840 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a  
841 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part  
842 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(7).

843 (7) Representatives from each school district and  
844 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to  
845 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary  
846 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

847 Section 18. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is  
848 repealed.

849 Section 19. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended  
850 to read:

851 1002.73 Office of Early Learning ~~Department of Education;~~  
852 powers and duties; accountability requirements.-

853 (1) The office ~~department~~ shall adopt by rule a standard  
854 statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary  
855 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized  
856 attachments by provider type. The office shall publish a copy of  
857 the standard statewide provider contract on its website. The  
858 standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a  
859 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for  
860 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a  
861 provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the  
862 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide  
863 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process

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864 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,  
865 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any  
866 provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or  
867 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~  
868 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~  
869 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

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

871 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials  
872 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

873 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early  
874 mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and  
875 1002.59.

876 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers  
877 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the  
878 minimum performance metric or designation as required by s.  
879 1002.68 of the high-quality professional development  
880 opportunities developed or supported by the office.

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

884 1. Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility  
885 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
886 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children  
887 by public schools and private providers that meet specified  
888 requirements.

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- 889        2. Providing parents with profiles of private  
890 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.
- 891        3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and  
892 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,  
893 1002.61, and 1002.63.
- 894        4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten  
895 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61  
896 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility  
897 whenever possible.
- 898        5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten  
899 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools  
900 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or  
901 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.
- 902        6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public  
903 schools under s. 1002.71.
- 904        7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and  
905 student attendance under s. 1002.71.
- 906        8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the  
907 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.
- 908        9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private  
909 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with  
910 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.  
911 1002.71.
- 912        (3) The office shall administer the accountability  
913 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

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914 at the state level.

915 (4) The office shall adopt procedures governing the  
916 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
917 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

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

920 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public  
921 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.  
922 1002.68.

923 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public  
924 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the  
925 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time  
926 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a  
927 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I  
928 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program  
929 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition  
930 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the  
931 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
932 Education Program.

933 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility  
934 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
935 under s. 1002.66.

936 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers  
937 under s. 1002.66.

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

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939 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~  
940 ~~1002.69.~~

941 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~  
942 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~  
943 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~  
944 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~  
945 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~  
946 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~  
947 ~~department.~~

948 ~~(f)(e)~~ Approval of specialized instructional  
949 services providers under s. 1002.66.

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

952 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or  
953 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.  
954 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.69(7)~~.

955 (5) The office shall adopt procedures for the distribution  
956 of funds to early learning coalitions under s. 1002.71.

957 ~~(6)(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the office ~~department~~  
958 may not impose requirements on a private prekindergarten  
959 provider or public school that does not deliver the Voluntary  
960 Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under  
961 this part.

962 Section 20. Section 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is  
963 repealed.

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964 Section 21. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is  
965 reordered and amended to read:

966 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of  
967 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

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

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

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

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

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

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

987 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered  
988 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families

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989 certified homeless shelter.

990 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care  
991 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,  
992 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,  
993 including reasonable travel time.

994 ~~(13)~~~~(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the  
995 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency  
996 distribution average of the market rate by program care level  
997 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which  
998 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

999 ~~(3)~~~~(4)~~ "Direct enhancement services" means services for  
1000 families and children that are in addition to payments for the  
1001 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct  
1002 enhancement services for families and children may include  
1003 supports for providers, parent training and involvement  
1004 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique  
1005 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement  
1006 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be  
1007 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(6)(b).

1008 ~~(4)~~~~(5)~~ "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary  
1009 or permanent, of a child from participation in the school  
1010 readiness program. Removal of a child from the school readiness  
1011 program may be based on the following events: a reduction in  
1012 available school readiness program funding, participant's  
1013 failure to meet eligibility or program participation

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1014 requirements, fraud, or a change in local service priorities.

1015 (5)~~(6)~~ "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived  
1016 from work, professional service, or self-employment. The term  
1017 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash  
1018 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

1019 (6)~~(7)~~ "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family  
1020 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty  
1021 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family  
1022 as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural  
1023 worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer  
1024 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according  
1025 to weather conditions and market stability.

1026 (7)~~(8)~~ "Family income" means the combined gross income,  
1027 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by  
1028 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older  
1029 who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.  
1030 The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled  
1031 high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or  
1032 a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22  
1033 years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high  
1034 school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special  
1035 diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also  
1036 does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing  
1037 assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the  
1038 associated utilities expenses.

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1039        ~~(8)-(9)~~ "Family or household members" means spouses, former  
1040 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are  
1041 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have  
1042 been married, and other persons who are currently residing  
1043 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

1044        ~~(9)-(10)~~ "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not  
1045 more than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education  
1046 services within a 24-hour period.

1047        ~~(10)-(11)~~ "Market rate" means the price that a child care  
1048 or early childhood education provider charges for full-time or  
1049 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early  
1050 childhood education services.

1051        ~~(11)-(12)~~ "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of  
1052 the Department of Education.

1053        ~~(12)-(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child  
1054 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour  
1055 period.

1056        (14) "Single point of entry" means an integrated  
1057 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her  
1058 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary  
1059 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations  
1060 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or  
1061 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a  
1062 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for  
1063 enrollment in the school readiness program.

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- 1064 (15) "Unearned income" means income other than earned  
1065 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:
- 1066 (a) Documented alimony and child support received.
  - 1067 (b) Social security benefits.
  - 1068 (c) Supplemental security income benefits.
  - 1069 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.
  - 1070 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation  
1071 benefits.
  - 1072 (f) Veterans' benefits.
  - 1073 (g) Retirement benefits.
  - 1074 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.
- 1075 (16) "Working family" means:
- 1076 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom  
1077 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or  
1078 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;
  - 1079 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom  
1080 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or  
1081 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours  
1082 per week; or
  - 1083 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with  
1084 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to  
1085 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician  
1086 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is  
1087 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at  
1088 least 20 hours per week.

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1089 Section 22. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1090 to read:

1091 1002.82 Office of Early Learning; powers and duties.—

1092 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and  
1093 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts  
1094 98 and 99, the Office of Early Learning is designated as the  
1095 lead agency and must comply with lead agency responsibilities  
1096 pursuant to federal law. The office may apply to the Governor  
1097 and Cabinet for a waiver of, and the Governor and Cabinet may  
1098 waive, any provision of ss. 411.223 and 1003.54 if the waiver is  
1099 necessary for implementation of the school readiness program.  
1100 Section 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply to the school readiness  
1101 program.

1102 (2) The office shall:

1103 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered  
1104 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

1105 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to  
1106 choose from a variety of child care categories, including  
1107 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to  
1108 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development  
1109 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health  
1110 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and  
1111 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or  
1112 excluded in any of these categories.

1113 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and

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1114 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual  
1115 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,  
1116 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of  
1117 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,

1118 including:

1119 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for  
1120 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides  
1121 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,  
1122 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.  
1123 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

1124 a. Direct services to children.

1125 b. Administrative costs.

1126 c. Quality activities.

1127 d. Nondirect services.

1128 2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to  
1129 perform data matches on children participating in the school  
1130 readiness program and their families in order to verify the  
1131 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.

1132 (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of  
1133 the prevailing average market rate or an alternative model  
1134 approved by the Administration for Children and Families  
1135 pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c).

1136 (e) Review each early learning coalition's school  
1137 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval  
1138 of the plan and any amendments submitted.

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1139 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to  
1140 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of  
1141 this effort, the office:

1142 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that  
1143 address the state's school readiness program, including:

1144 a. Statewide data information program requirements that  
1145 include:

1146 (I) Eligibility requirements.

1147 (II) Financial reports.

1148 (III) Program accountability measures.

1149 (IV) Child progress reports.

1150 b. Child care resource and referral services.

1151 c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.

1152 2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on  
1153 additional support services to complement the school readiness  
1154 program, including:

1155 ~~a. Rating and improvement systems.~~

1156 ~~a.b.~~ Warm-Line services.

1157 ~~b.e.~~ Anti-fraud plans.

1158 ~~d. School readiness program standards.~~

1159 ~~e. Child screening and assessments.~~

1160 ~~c.f.~~ Training and support for parental involvement in  
1161 children's early education.

1162 ~~d.g.~~ Family literacy activities and services.

1163 (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning

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1164 coalitions.

1165 (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,  
1166 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the  
1167 Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to  
1168 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety  
1169 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child  
1170 care training and credentialing.

1171 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local  
1172 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of  
1173 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of  
1174 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify  
1175 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist  
1176 adopted by the office. The provider contract of a school  
1177 readiness program provider that refuses permission for entry or  
1178 inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety checklist  
1179 may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the Child Care  
1180 and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A child  
1181 development program accredited by a national accrediting body  
1182 and operating on a military installation certified by the United  
1183 States Department of Defense is exempted from the inspection  
1184 requirements under s. 1002.88.

1185 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the Develop  
1186 and adopt standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the  
1187 office that address the age-appropriate progress of children in  
1188 the development of school readiness skills. The standards for

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1189 children from birth to kindergarten entry ~~5 years of age~~ in the  
1190 school readiness program must be aligned with the performance  
1191 standards adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1192 Education Program and must address the following domains:

- 1193 1. Approaches to learning.
- 1194 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 1195 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 1196 4. Physical development.
- 1197 5. Self-regulation.

1198 (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are  
1199 valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at  
1200 least three times a year. The assessments must:

- 1201 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~riterion-~~  
1202 ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across  
1203 the core domains of early childhood development and that can be  
1204 used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.
- 1205 2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted  
1206 pursuant to paragraph (j).
- 1207 3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children  
1208 with disabilities and English language learners and be  
1209 administered by qualified individuals, consistent with the  
1210 developer's instructions.
- 1211 4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by  
1212 the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary  
1213 Prekindergarten Education Program.

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1214 5. Provide data in a format for use in the single  
1215 statewide information system to meet the requirements of  
1216 paragraph (q) ~~(p)~~.

1217 (l) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the  
1218 performance standards for the school readiness program and  
1219 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's  
1220 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

1221 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning  
1222 coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard  
1223 statewide provider contract adopted by the office to be used  
1224 with each school readiness program provider, with standardized  
1225 attachments by provider type. The office shall publish a copy of  
1226 the standard statewide provider contract on its website. The  
1227 standard statewide contract shall include, at a minimum,  
1228 contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the Child  
1229 Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R. parts 98  
1230 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable; program  
1231 assessment requirements; and provisions for provider probation,  
1232 termination for cause, and emergency termination for those  
1233 actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate and  
1234 serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the  
1235 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also  
1236 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency  
1237 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to  
1238 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that

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1239 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and  
1240 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also  
1241 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established  
1242 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the  
1243 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting  
1244 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)  
1245 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to  
1246 paragraph (n).

1247 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness  
1248 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child  
1249 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,  
1250 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and  
1251 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The  
1252 implementation of the program assessment must also include the  
1253 following components adopted by the office:

1254 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program  
1255 assessment composite score threshold for contracting purposes  
1256 and program improvement through an improvement plan. The minimum  
1257 program assessment composite score required for the Voluntary  
1258 Prekindergarten Education Program contracting threshold must be  
1259 the same as the minimum program assessment composite score  
1260 required for contracting for the school readiness program. The  
1261 methodology for the calculation of the minimum program  
1262 assessment composite score shall be reviewed by the independent  
1263 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

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1264 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of  
1265 program assessment, and exemptions.

1266 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential  
1267 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the  
1268 office under paragraph (n). The differential payment may not  
1269 exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and unit of  
1270 child care for a child care provider. No more than 5 percent of  
1271 the 15 percent total differential may be provided to providers  
1272 who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide information  
1273 system in the domains of language and executive functioning  
1274 using a child assessment identified pursuant to paragraph (k).  
1275 Providers below the minimum program assessment score adopted  
1276 ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes are ineligible for such  
1277 payment.

1278 (p) No later than July 1, 2022, develop and adopt  
1279 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to  
1280 make available contracted slots to serve children at the  
1281 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children  
1282 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty  
1283 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted  
1284 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of  
1285 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.  
1286 1002.85(2)(j).

1287 (q)-(p) Establish a single statewide information system  
1288 that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the

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1289 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,  
1290 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining  
1291 eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and  
1292 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early  
1293 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.  
1294 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

1295 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her  
1296 child as the child moves among programs within the state.

1297 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level  
1298 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality  
1299 improvement and investment decisions.

1300 (r)-(q) Provide technical support to coalitions to  
1301 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures  
1302 adopted by the office for early learning coalitions to use when  
1303 monitoring the compliance of school readiness program providers  
1304 with the terms of the standard statewide provider contract.

1305 (s)-(r) At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic  
1306 monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early  
1307 learning coalition in administering the school readiness  
1308 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program  
1309 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program  
1310 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1311 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must  
1312 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's  
1313 finances, management, operations, and programs.

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1314        (t)~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal  
1315 Education Programs within the Department of Education to  
1316 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to  
1317 the populations served by the bureau.

1318        (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to  
1319 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and  
1320 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,  
1321 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are  
1322 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other  
1323 special needs. The office shall:

1324            1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day  
1325 care homes of the availability of this service through the child  
1326 care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

1327            2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line  
1328 to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning  
1329 coalition service area.

1330        (v)~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the  
1331 supply and improve the quality of child care services for  
1332 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who  
1333 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in  
1334 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant  
1335 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

1336        (w)~~(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training  
1337 requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child  
1338 development standards, health and safety requirements, and

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1339 social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include  
1340 positive behavior intervention and support models, including the  
1341 integration of early learning professional development pathways  
1342 established in s. 1002.995.

1343 ~~(x)(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness  
1344 plans for school readiness program providers.

1345 ~~(y)(x)~~ Establish group sizes.

1346 ~~(z)(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not  
1347 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.  
1348 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program  
1349 providers.

1350 ~~(aa)(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including  
1351 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance  
1352 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

1353 (3)(a) The office shall adopt performance standards and  
1354 outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a  
1355 minimum, include the development of objective and statistically  
1356 valid customer service surveys by a state university or other  
1357 independent researcher with specific expertise in customer  
1358 service survey development. The survey shall be deployed  
1359 beginning in fiscal year 2023-2024 and be distributed to:

1360 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the  
1361 completion of a referral inquiry.

1362 2. Parents annually at the time of eligibility  
1363 determination.

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1364 3. Child care providers that participate in the school  
1365 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1366 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider  
1367 contract.

1368 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

1369 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a  
1370 statistically significant sample size of completed surveys and  
1371 calculated annually for each early learning coalition and  
1372 included in the department's annual report under subsection (7).  
1373 If an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction survey  
1374 results are below 60 percent, the coalition shall be placed on a  
1375 1-year corrective action plan that outlines specific steps the  
1376 coalition shall take to improve the results of the customer  
1377 service surveys, including, but not limited to, technical  
1378 assistance, staff professional development or coaching.

1379 (4) ~~(3)~~ If the office determines during the review of  
1380 school readiness program plans, or through monitoring and  
1381 performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an  
1382 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its  
1383 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and  
1384 outcome measures adopted by the office or the terms of a  
1385 customer service corrective action plan, or has not effectively  
1386 administered the school readiness program or Voluntary  
1387 Prekindergarten Education Program, the office may remove the  
1388 coalition from eligibility to administer early learning programs

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1389 and temporarily contract with a qualified entity to continue  
1390 school readiness program and prekindergarten services in the  
1391 coalition's county or multicounty region until the office  
1392 reestablishes or merges the coalition and a new school readiness  
1393 program plan is approved in accordance with the rules adopted by  
1394 the office.

1395 (5) The office shall adopt procedures for merging early  
1396 learning coalitions for failure to meet the requirements of  
1397 subsection (3) or subsection (4), including procedures for the  
1398 consolidation of merging coalitions that minimizes duplication  
1399 of programs and services due to the merger, and for the early  
1400 termination of the terms of the coalition members which are  
1401 necessary to accomplish the mergers.

1402 (6)-(4) The office may request the Governor to apply for a  
1403 waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head Start Program  
1404 to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness program.

1405 (7)-(5) By January 1 of each year, the office shall  
1406 annually publish on its website a report of its activities  
1407 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary  
1408 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the  
1409 following:

1410 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout  
1411 the state, including the school readiness program and the  
1412 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1413 1. The total and average number of children served in the

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1414 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility  
1415 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of  
1416 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1417 Program.

1418 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,  
1419 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of  
1420 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,  
1421 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

1422 3. A description of the office's and each coalition's  
1423 expenditures by fund source for the quality and enhancement  
1424 activities described in s. 1002.89(6) (b).

1425 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to  
1426 provider fraud and parent fraud.

1427 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early  
1428 learning programs.

1429 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and  
1430 the reason for disenrollment.

1431 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

1432 8. The number of school readiness program providers who  
1433 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph  
1434 (2) (n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum  
1435 program assessment composite score threshold for contracting  
1436 established under paragraph (2) (n); and the number of providers  
1437 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the  
1438 program assessment under paragraph (2) (n).

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1439 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the  
1440 reasons for revocation.

1441 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the  
1442 single statewide information system established in subsection  
1443 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child  
1444 Care Executive Partnership Program.

1445 (8) (a) (6) (a) Parental choice of child care providers,  
1446 including private and faith-based providers, shall be  
1447 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with  
1448 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

1449 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment  
1450 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45  
1451 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

1452 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with  
1453 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment  
1454 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,  
1455 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment  
1456 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the  
1457 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must  
1458 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized  
1459 representative of the provider.

1460 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash  
1461 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for  
1462 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or  
1463 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of

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1464 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

1465 (9)~~(7)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does  
1466 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,  
1467 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional  
1468 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the  
1469 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

1470 Section 23. Present subsections (5) through (14) of  
1471 section 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
1472 subsections (6) through (15), respectively, a new subsection (5)  
1473 is added to that section, and subsections (1) and (3),  
1474 paragraphs (e), (f), and (m) of subsection (4), and present  
1475 subsections (5), (11), and (13) of that section are amended, to  
1476 read:

1477 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

1478 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions  
1479 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services  
1480 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67  
1481 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for  
1482 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program  
1483 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1484 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other  
1485 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the  
1486 ~~same~~ qualifications of a ~~as~~ private sector business member  
1487 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (6)~~(5)~~. In  
1488 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Executive

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1489 Director of the Office of Early Learning may appoint an interim  
1490 chair from the current early learning coalition board  
1491 membership.

1492 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the  
1493 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
1494 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
1495 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
1496 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
1497 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of  
1498 such members may serve as a voting member:

1499 (e) A children's services council or juvenile welfare  
1500 board chair or executive director from each county, if  
1501 applicable.

1502 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care  
1503 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing  
1504 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

1505 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

1506 (5) If members of the board are found to be  
1507 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition  
1508 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate  
1509 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership  
1510 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

1511 ~~(6)-(5) The early learning coalition may appoint additional~~  
1512 ~~Including the members who appointed by the Governor under~~  
1513 ~~subsection (3), more than one-third of the members of each early~~

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1514 ~~learning coalition~~ must be private sector business members,  
1515 either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of  
1516 whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial  
1517 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary  
1518 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this  
1519 chapter or the school readiness program. ~~To meet this~~  
1520 ~~requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional~~  
1521 ~~members.~~ The office shall establish criteria for appointing  
1522 private sector business members. These criteria must include  
1523 standards for determining whether a member or relative has a  
1524 substantial financial interest in the design or delivery of the  
1525 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school  
1526 readiness program.

1527 ~~(11)~~ (12) Each early learning coalition shall establish  
1528 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must  
1529 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4  
1530 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~  
1531 ~~pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may serve a maximum of  
1532 two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed  
1533 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

1534 ~~(13)~~ (14) Each early learning coalition shall complete an  
1535 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive  
1536 director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the  
1537 office. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the Executive  
1538 Director of the Office of Early Learning by August 30 of each

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1539 ~~year use a coordinated professional development system that~~  
1540 ~~supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by~~  
1541 ~~school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the~~  
1542 ~~performance standards adopted by the office.~~

1543 Section 24. Present subsections (7) through (20) of  
1544 section 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
1545 subsections (8) through (21), respectively, a new subsection (7)  
1546 is added to that section, and subsection (4), present  
1547 subsections (8) and (16), paragraph (a) of present subsection  
1548 (18), and present subsection (20) of that section are amended,  
1549 to read:

1550 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
1551 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

1552 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the  
1553 office pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~. Regional  
1554 Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when  
1555 requested, to assist child care facilities and family day care  
1556 homes with inquiries relating to the strategies, curriculum, and  
1557 environmental adaptations the child care facilities and family  
1558 day care homes may need as they serve children with disabilities  
1559 and other special needs.

1560 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that  
1561 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by  
1562 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the  
1563 performance standards adopted by the office.

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1564        ~~(9)-(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides  
1565 for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families  
1566 receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~  
1567 ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~  
1568 ~~a case by case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child  
1569 or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's  
1570 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose  
1571 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits  
1572 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in  
1573 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency  
1574 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the  
1575 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in  
1576 an Early Head Start program or the Head Start Program. A parent  
1577 may not transfer school readiness program services to another  
1578 school readiness program provider until the parent has submitted  
1579 documentation from the current school readiness program provider  
1580 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has  
1581 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

1582        ~~(17)-(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all  
1583 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The  
1584 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
1585 average market rate or an alternative model that has been  
1586 approved by the Administration for Children and Families  
1587 pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 98.45(c), include the projected number of  
1588 children to be served, and be submitted for approval by the

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1589 ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed at  
1590 not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day  
1591 care home.

1592 (19)~~(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual  
1593 report to the office. The report shall conform to the format  
1594 adopted by the office and must include:

1595 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,  
1596 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~  
1597 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds~~, and other local revenues  
1598 available to the coalition.

1599 (21)~~(a)~~~~(20)~~ To increase transparency and accountability,  
1600 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting  
1601 with one or more of the following persons or business entities  
1602 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned  
1603 by the following persons:

1604 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.  
1605 1002.83(4);

1606 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient  
1607 entity;

1608 3. A coalition employee; or

1609 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c), of any  
1610 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~  
1611 ~~employee of the coalition.~~

1612 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the  
1613 approval of the office. Such contracts, as well as documentation

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1614 demonstrating adherence to this section by the coalition, must  
1615 be approved by a two-thirds vote of the coalition, a quorum  
1616 having been established; all conflicts of interest must be  
1617 disclosed before the vote; and any member who may benefit from  
1618 the contract, or whose relative may benefit from the contract,  
1619 must abstain from the vote. A contract under \$25,000 ~~between an~~  
1620 ~~early learning coalition and a member of that coalition or~~  
1621 ~~between a relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c), of a~~  
1622 ~~coalition member or of an employee of the coalition~~ is not  
1623 required to have the prior approval of the office but must be  
1624 approved by a two-thirds vote of the coalition, a quorum having  
1625 been established, and must be reported to the office within 30  
1626 days after approval. If a contract cannot be approved by the  
1627 office, a review of the decision to disapprove the contract may  
1628 be requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to  
1629 the disapproved contract.

1630 Section 25. Paragraphs (c) and (f) of subsection (2) of  
1631 section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1632 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

1633 (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a  
1634 school readiness program plan to the office before the  
1635 expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its school  
1636 readiness program plan until it receives approval from the  
1637 office. A coalition may not implement any revision to its school  
1638 readiness program plan until the coalition submits the revised

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1639 plan to and receives approval from the office. If the office  
1640 rejects a plan or revision, the coalition must continue to  
1641 operate under its previously approved plan. The plan must  
1642 include, but is not limited to:

1643 (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the  
1644 requirements of this part, including:

1645 1. Single point of entry.

1646 2. Uniform waiting list.

1647 3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local  
1648 eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.

1649 4. Parent access and choice.

1650 5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver  
1651 or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~  
1652 ~~1002.84(8)~~.

1653 6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as  
1654 applicable.

1655 7. Payment rate schedule.

1656 8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the  
1657 results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

1658 (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the  
1659 office, of all revenues and expenditures during the previous  
1660 state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be identifiable, and  
1661 expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~ categories: state  
1662 and federal funds and ~~7~~ local matching funds, ~~and Child Care~~  
1663 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

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1664 Section 26. Paragraphs (a), (c), and (p) of subsection (1)  
1665 of section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph  
1666 (s) is added to that subsection, to read:

1667 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;  
1668 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

1669 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness  
1670 program, a school readiness program provider must:

1671 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a  
1672 family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a  
1673 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a  
1674 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.  
1675 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from  
1676 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school  
1677 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development  
1678 program accredited by a national accrediting body and operating  
1679 on a military installation certified by the United States  
1680 Department of Defense, or an informal child care provider to the  
1681 extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development Fund  
1682 Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health and  
1683 Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18, or a provider who  
1684 has been issued a provisional license pursuant to s. 402.309. A  
1685 provider may not deliver the program while holding a probation-  
1686 status license under s. 402.310.

1687 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and  
1688 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate

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1689 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness  
1690 program.

1691 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.  
1692 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as  
1693 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

1694 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care  
1695 home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the  
1696 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this  
1697 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this  
1698 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the  
1699 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist  
1700 adopted by the office prominently on its premises in plain sight  
1701 for visitors and parents and shall annually submit the checklist  
1702 to its local early learning coalition.

1703 3. For a child development program accredited by a  
1704 national accrediting body and operating on a military  
1705 installation certified by the United States Department of  
1706 Defense, the submission and verification of annual inspections  
1707 pursuant to United States Department of Defense Instructions  
1708 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

1709 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is  
1710 a state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.  
1711 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional  
1712 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to  
1713 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall

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1714 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.  
1715 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program  
1716 accredited by a national accrediting body and operating on a  
1717 military installation certified by the United States Department  
1718 of Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability coverage by  
1719 affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28  
1720 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

1721 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has  
1722 been granted under s. 1002.84(9).

1723 Section 27. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)  
1724 of subsection (2), and subsections (4) and (6) of section  
1725 1002.895, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1726 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness  
1727 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

1728 (1) The office shall establish procedures for the adoption  
1729 of a market rate schedule until an alternative model that has  
1730 been approved by the Administration for Children and Families  
1731 pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c) is available for adoption. The  
1732 schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-county rates:

1733 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum  
1734 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality  
1735 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting  
1736 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
1737 requirements ~~s. 402.281.~~

1738 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

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1739 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not  
1740 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality  
1741 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its  
1742 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size  
1743 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.  
1744 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure  
1745 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from  
1746 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal  
1747 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home  
1748 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed  
1749 or registered under s. 402.313.

1750 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an  
1751 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.  
1752 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing  
1753 average market rate ~~and~~ include the projected number of  
1754 children to be served by each county and be submitted for  
1755 approval by the office. Informal child care arrangements shall  
1756 be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted  
1757 for a family day care home.

1758 (6) The office may adopt rules for establishing procedures  
1759 for the collection of child care providers' market rate, the  
1760 calculation of the prevailing average market rate by program  
1761 care level and provider type in a predetermined geographic  
1762 market, and the publication of the market rate schedule.

1763 Section 28. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (a), (c), and

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1764 (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida Statutes, are  
1765 amended to read:

1766 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
1767 referral.—

1768 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the office  
1769 shall establish a statewide child care resource and referral  
1770 network that is unbiased and provides referrals to families for  
1771 child care and information on available community resources.  
1772 Preference shall be given to using early learning coalitions as  
1773 the child care resource and referral agencies. If an early  
1774 learning coalition cannot comply with the requirements to offer  
1775 the resource information component or does not want to offer  
1776 that service, the early learning coalition shall select the  
1777 resource and referral agency for its county or multicounty  
1778 region based upon the procurement requirements of s. 1002.84(13)  
1779 ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

1780 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall  
1781 provide the following services:

1782 (a) Identification of existing public and private child  
1783 care and early childhood education services, including child  
1784 care services by public and private employers, and the  
1785 development of an early learning provider performance profile ~~a~~  
1786 ~~resource file~~ of those services through the single statewide  
1787 information system developed by the office under s.  
1788 1002.82(2)(q) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services may include

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1789 family day care, public and private child care programs, the  
1790 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the  
1791 school readiness program, special education programs for  
1792 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for  
1793 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-  
1794 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and  
1795 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~  
1796 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The  
1797 early learning provider performance profile resource file shall  
1798 include, but not be limited to:

- 1799 1. Type of program.
- 1800 2. Hours of service.
- 1801 3. Ages of children served.
- 1802 4. Number of children served.
- 1803 5. Program information.
- 1804 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 1805 7. Availability of transportation.
- 1806 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if  
1807 applicable.
- 1808 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
- 1809 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1810 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68  
1811 that must consist of the program assessment composite score,  
1812 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,  
1813 if applicable.

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1814 11. The school readiness program assessment composite  
1815 score and program assessment care level composite score results  
1816 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and  
1817 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

1818 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,  
1819 if applicable.

1820 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a  
1821 curriculum approved by the office and the name of the  
1822 curriculum, if applicable.

1823 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment  
1824 under s. 1002.82.

1825 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for  
1826 service tabulated through the internal referral process through  
1827 the single statewide information system. The following  
1828 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the  
1829 child care resource and referral network:

1830 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource  
1831 information and referral network component by type of service  
1832 requested.

1833 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

1834 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

1835 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and  
1836 swing shift.

1837 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

1838 6. Customer service survey data required under s.

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1839 ~~1002.82(3) Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~  
1840 ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

1841 (d) Assistance to families which connects them to parent  
1842 education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,  
1843 or social services programs that support families with children,  
1844 and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~  
1845 ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~  
1846 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

1847 1. ~~Information on initiating new child care services,~~  
1848 ~~zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in~~  
1849 ~~finding such information from other sources.~~

1850 2. ~~Information and resources which help existing child~~  
1851 ~~care services providers to maximize their ability to serve~~  
1852 ~~children and parents in their community.~~

1853 3. ~~Information and incentives that may help existing or~~  
1854 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~  
1855 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~  
1856 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~  
1857 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~  
1858 ~~businesses.~~

1859 Section 29. Section 402.281, Florida Statutes, is  
1860 transferred, renumbered as section 1002.945, Florida Statutes,  
1861 and amended to read:

1862 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

1863 (1) (a) There is established within the Office of Early

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1864 Learning department the Gold Seal Quality Care Program.

1865 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home,  
1866 or family day care home that is accredited by an accrediting  
1867 association approved by the office department under subsection  
1868 (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon application to  
1869 the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal Quality Care"  
1870 designation.

1871 (2) The office department shall adopt rules establishing  
1872 Gold Seal Quality Care accreditation standards using nationally  
1873 recognized accrediting standards and input from accrediting  
1874 associations based on the applicable accrediting standards of  
1875 the National Association for the Education of Young Children  
1876 (NAEYC), the National Association of Family Child Care, and the  
1877 National Early Childhood Program Accreditation Commission.

1878 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the office department  
1879 for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care program, an  
1880 accrediting association must apply to the office department and  
1881 demonstrate that it:

1882 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.

1883 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or  
1884 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the  
1885 office department under subsection (2).

1886 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of  
1887 State.

1888 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation

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1889 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:

1890 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care  
1891 provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process.

1892 However, accreditation may not be granted to a child care  
1893 facility, large family child care home, or family day care home  
1894 before the site is operational and is attended by children.

1895 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and  
1896 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom  
1897 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

1898 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to  
1899 ensure inter-rater reliability.

1900 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring  
1901 each accredited child care facility, large family child care  
1902 home, and family day care home to file an annual report with the  
1903 accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing  
1904 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family  
1905 child care homes, and family day care homes.

1906 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to  
1907 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-  
1908 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by  
1909 the accrediting association.

1910 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite  
1911 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

1912 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation  
1913 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of

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1914 facilities.

1915 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the  
1916 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a  
1917 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including  
1918 the office, the Department of Children and Families, the  
1919 Department of Health, local licensing entities if applicable,  
1920 and the early learning coalition.

1921 (b) The office shall establish a process that verifies  
1922 that the accrediting association meets the provisions of  
1923 paragraph (a), which must include an auditing program and any  
1924 other procedures that may reasonably determine an accrediting  
1925 association's compliance with this section. If an accrediting  
1926 association is not in compliance and fails to cure its  
1927 deficiencies within 30 days, the office shall recommend to the  
1928 state board termination of the accrediting association's  
1929 participation as an accrediting association in the program for a  
1930 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years. If an  
1931 accrediting association is removed from being an approved  
1932 accrediting association, each child care provider accredited by  
1933 that association shall have up to 1 year to obtain a new  
1934 accreditation from an office approved accreditation association.

1935 (c) If an accrediting association has granted  
1936 accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care  
1937 home, or family day care under fraudulent terms or failed to  
1938 conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall

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1939 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under  
1940 subsection (6).

1941 ~~(b) In approving accrediting associations, the department~~  
1942 ~~shall consult with the Department of Education, the Florida Head~~  
1943 ~~Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child~~  
1944 ~~Care Management, the Florida Family Child Care Home Association,~~  
1945 ~~the Florida Children's Forum, the Florida Association for the~~  
1946 ~~Education of the Young, the Child Development Education~~  
1947 ~~Alliance, the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools,~~  
1948 ~~the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, providers~~  
1949 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents.~~

1950 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a  
1951 Gold Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large  
1952 family child care home, or family day care home must meet the  
1953 following additional criteria:

1954 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I  
1955 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and  
1956 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
1957 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
1958 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the  
1959 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
1960 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

1961 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or  
1962 more class II violations, as defined by rule of the Department  
1963 of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its

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1964 application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care  
1965 provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within  
1966 a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the  
1967 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
1968 provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

1969 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for  
1970 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the  
1971 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and  
1972 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of  
1973 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
1974 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
1975 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to  
1976 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be  
1977 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal  
1978 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III  
1979 violations for a period of 1 year.

1980 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the office  
1981 determines through a formal process that a provider has been in  
1982 business for at least 5 years and has no other class I  
1983 violations recorded, the office may recommend to the state board  
1984 that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care status.  
1985 The state board's determination regarding such provider's status  
1986 is final.

1987 (5) A child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305  
1988 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s.

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1989 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality Care status under this  
1990 section shall be considered an educational institution for the  
1991 purpose of qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s.  
1992 196.198.

1993 (6) A child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305  
1994 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s.  
1995 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality Care status under this  
1996 section and which participates in the school readiness program  
1997 shall receive a minimum of a 20 percent rate differential for  
1998 each enrolled school readiness child by care level and unit of  
1999 child care.

2000 (7)-(5) The ~~office~~ Department of Children and Families  
2001 shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide  
2002 criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting  
2003 associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
2004 program and~~r~~ conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal  
2005 Quality Care providers, and classifying violations.

2006 Section 30. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is  
2007 created to read:

2008 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
2009 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2010 Program through grade 3.-

2011 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and  
2012 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary  
2013 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide

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2014 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate  
2015 grade level standards and to provide information on their  
2016 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program  
2017 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2018 Education Program providers and school districts to improve  
2019 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning  
2020 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and  
2021 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,  
2022 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure  
2023 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress  
2024 monitoring program must:

2025 (a) Measure student progress in the Voluntary  
2026 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the  
2027 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and  
2028 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.  
2029 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.

2030 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary  
2031 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

2032 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each  
2033 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on  
2034 each kindergarten student's progress monitoring results that was  
2035 administered no later than the first 30 instructional days in  
2036 accordance with paragraph (2)(a). The methodology for  
2037 determining a student's readiness for kindergarten shall be  
2038 developed by the same independent expert identified in s.

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2039 1002.68 (4) (d) .

2040 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of  
2041 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2042 through grade 3.

2043 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to  
2044 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.  
2045 1008.25 (4) .

2046 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular  
2047 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state  
2048 levels.

2049 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and  
2050 development of educational programs and policies, and supports  
2051 for providers, schools, and districts.

2052 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a  
2053 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress  
2054 monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics  
2055 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards  
2056 established in ss. 1002.67(1) (a) and 1003.41, respectively. The  
2057 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must  
2058 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures  
2059 equivalent levels of growth; be an adaptive and developmentally  
2060 appropriate, valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to  
2061 capture data on students who may be performing below grade or  
2062 developmental level which may enable the identification of early  
2063 indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays; accurately

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2064 measure the core content in the applicable grade level  
2065 standards; document learning gains for the achievement of these  
2066 standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring  
2067 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction  
2068 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated  
2069 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all  
2070 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and  
2071 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The  
2072 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be  
2073 implemented beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Voluntary  
2074 Prekindergarten Education Program providers and public schools  
2075 must participate in the screening and progress monitoring  
2076 system, as follows:

2077 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
2078 program shall be administered to students occurring no later  
2079 than the first 30 instructional days of the program or school  
2080 year, midyear, and within the last 30 instructional days of the  
2081 program or school year, pursuant to state board rule. The state  
2082 board may adopt alternate timeframes to address nontraditional  
2083 school year calendars or summer programs to ensure  
2084 administration of the coordinated screening and progress  
2085 monitoring program is administered a minimum of 3 times within a  
2086 year or program.

2087 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress  
2088 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in

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2089 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and  
2090 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

2091 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

2092 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Council for  
2093 Early Grade Success, for implementing the coordinated screening  
2094 and progress monitoring program in consideration of timelines  
2095 for implementing new early literacy and mathematics skills and  
2096 the English Language Arts and mathematics standards established  
2097 in ss. 1002.67(1) (a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

2098 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to  
2099 the Council for Early Grade Success.

2100 (4) The Council for Early Grade Success, a council as  
2101 defined in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of  
2102 Education to oversee the coordinated screening and progress  
2103 monitoring program and, except as otherwise provided in this  
2104 section, shall operate consistent with s. 20.052.

2105 (a) The council shall be responsible for reviewing the  
2106 implementation of, training for, and outcomes from the  
2107 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program to provide  
2108 recommendations to the department that support grade 3 students  
2109 reading at or above grade level. The council, at a minimum,  
2110 shall:

2111 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the  
2112 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including  
2113 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria

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- 2114 before being published.
- 2115 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.
- 2116 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and  
2117 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated  
2118 screening and progress monitoring program.
- 2119 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a  
2120 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under  
2121 s. 1002.68.
- 2122 5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.  
2123 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a  
2124 child's kindergarten readiness.
- 2125 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade  
2126 level that a student would need to attain in order to  
2127 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.
- 2128 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of  
2129 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for  
2130 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2131 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department  
2132 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read  
2133 at or above grade level.
- 2134 (b) The council shall be composed of 17 members who are  
2135 residents of this state and appointed, as follows:
- 2136 1. Three members appointed by the Governor, as follows:
- 2137 a. One representative from the Department of Education.
- 2138 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.

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- 2139 c. One representative who is an elementary school  
2140 administrator.
- 2141 2. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate,  
2142 as follows:
- 2143 a. One senator who serves at the pleasure of the President  
2144 of the Senate.
- 2145 b. One representative of an urban school district.
- 2146 c. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.
- 2147 d. One representative of a faith-based early learning  
2148 provider that offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
2149 Program.
- 2150 e. One representative who is a second grade teacher with  
2151 at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 2152 f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in  
2153 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments.
- 2154 3. Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
2155 Representatives, as follows:
- 2156 a. One member of the House of Representatives who serves  
2157 at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House.
- 2158 b. One representative of a rural school district.
- 2159 c. One representative of an urban early learning  
2160 coalition.
- 2161 d. One representative of an early learning provider that  
2162 offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
- 2163 e. One member who is a kindergarten teacher with at least

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2164 | 5 years of teaching experience.

2165 | f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in  
2166 | early learning, early grade success, or child assessment.

2167 | (5) The four representatives with subject matter expertise  
2168 | in sub-subparagraphs (4)(b)2.f. and (4)(b)3.f. may not be direct  
2169 | stakeholders within the early learning or public school systems  
2170 | or potential recipients of a contract resulting from the  
2171 | council's recommendations.

2172 | (6) The council shall elect a chair and vice chair, one of  
2173 | whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in early  
2174 | learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The vice  
2175 | chair must be a member appointed by the President of the Senate  
2176 | or the Speaker of the House of Representatives who is not one of  
2177 | the four members with subject matter expertise in early  
2178 | learning, early grade success, or child assessments. Members of  
2179 | the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled to  
2180 | reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.  
2181 | 112.061.

2182 | (7) The council must meet at least biannually and may meet  
2183 | by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible, to  
2184 | reduce costs.

2185 | (8) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

2186 | Section 31. Present paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection  
2187 | (5) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
2188 | paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is

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2189 added to that subsection, and paragraph (b) of subsection (6),  
2190 subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (8) are amended,  
2191 to read:

2192 1008.25 Public school student progression; student  
2193 support; reporting requirements.—

2194 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

2195 (b) Any Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2196 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy  
2197 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1) (a) and  
2198 based upon the results of the administration of the final  
2199 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125  
2200 shall be referred to the local school district and may be  
2201 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before  
2202 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading  
2203 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's  
2204 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with  
2205 s. 1011.62(9).

2206 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

2207 (b) The district school board may only exempt students  
2208 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c)  
2209 ~~(5)(b)~~, for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4  
2210 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading  
2211 instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic  
2212 information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of  
2213 each student so promoted. The school district shall assist

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2214 schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit,  
2215 systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and  
2216 intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause  
2217 exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving  
2218 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause  
2219 exemptions are limited to the following:

2220 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less  
2221 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other  
2222 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a  
2223 school in the United States.

2224 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education  
2225 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment  
2226 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of  
2227 s. 1008.212.

2228 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of  
2229 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English  
2230 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of  
2231 Education.

2232 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio  
2233 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the  
2234 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

2235 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,  
2236 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an  
2237 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects  
2238 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading

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2239 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still  
2240 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in  
2241 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

2242 6. Students who have received intensive reading  
2243 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a  
2244 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in  
2245 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2  
2246 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

2247 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE  
2248 STUDENTS.—

2249 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must  
2250 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the  
2251 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student  
2252 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must  
2253 include:

2254 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory  
2255 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,  
2256 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by  
2257 the school district.

2258 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading  
2259 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention  
2260 strategies under subparagraph 1.

2261 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading  
2262 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention  
2263 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

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- 2264 a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social  
2265 studies within the 90-minute block.
- 2266 b. Small group instruction.
- 2267 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.
- 2268 d. More frequent progress monitoring.
- 2269 e. Tutoring or mentoring.
- 2270 f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade  
2271 students.
- 2272 g. Extended school day, week, or year.
- 2273 (b) Each school district shall:
- 2274 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student  
2275 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her  
2276 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion  
2277 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause  
2278 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must  
2279 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a  
2280 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be  
2281 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of  
2282 reading deficiency.
- 2283 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a  
2284 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can  
2285 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent  
2286 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,  
2287 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,  
2288 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.

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2289 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student  
2290 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative  
2291 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of  
2292 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the  
2293 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels  
2294 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning  
2295 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education  
2296 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation  
2297 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate  
2298 grade 4 level reading skills.

2299 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph  
2300 (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~, including students participating in the school  
2301 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a  
2302 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's  
2303 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,  
2304 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

2305 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive  
2306 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3  
2307 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade  
2308 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the  
2309 following:

2310 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of  
2311 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the  
2312 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core  
2313 subject areas through content-rich texts.

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- 2314           b. Small group instruction.
- 2315           c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.
- 2316           d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory
- 2317 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,
- 2318 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language
- 2319 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating
- 2320 student reading achievement within the same school year.
- 2321           e. A read-at-home plan.
- 2322           (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—
- 2323           (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5)(c)
- 2324 ~~(5)(b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the
- 2325 parent of each student the progress of the student toward
- 2326 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in
- 2327 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.
- 2328 The district school board must report to the parent the
- 2329 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.
- 2330 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the
- 2331 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and
- 2332 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided
- 2333 under paragraph (5)(a), and other relevant information. Progress
- 2334 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format
- 2335 adopted by the district school board.
- 2336           Section 32. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida
- 2337 Statutes, is amended to read:
- 2338           1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual

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2339 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
2340 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
2341 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
2342 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
2343 follows:

2344 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

2345 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is  
2346 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students  
2347 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who  
2348 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and who  
2349 completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2350 pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one  
2351 or more of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on  
2352 a 3-year average of the state reading assessment data must use  
2353 the school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional  
2354 hour per day of intensive reading instruction for the students  
2355 in each school. The additional hour may be provided within the  
2356 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a  
2357 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English  
2358 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may  
2359 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional  
2360 student education centers may not be included in the 300  
2361 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this  
2362 additional hour shall include: research-based reading  
2363 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of

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2364 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated  
2365 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,  
2366 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading  
2367 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop  
2368 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and  
2369 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided  
2370 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of  
2371 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text  
2372 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

2373 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading  
2374 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district  
2375 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each  
2376 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount  
2377 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any  
2378 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school  
2379 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of  
2380 K-12 base funding.

2381 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to  
2382 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to  
2383 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who  
2384 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and who  
2385 completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
2386 pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

2387 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive  
2388 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing

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2389 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have  
2390 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in  
2391 paragraph (a).

2392 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based reading  
2393 ~~intervention teachers to provide~~ intensive reading interventions  
2394 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during  
2395 the school day and in the required extra hour for students  
2396 identified as having a reading deficiency.

2397 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically  
2398 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on  
2399 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading  
2400 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas  
2401 based on student need.

2402 4. Professional development for school district teachers  
2403 in scientifically based reading instruction, including  
2404 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an  
2405 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school  
2406 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in  
2407 reading.

2408 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other  
2409 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading  
2410 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in  
2411 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading  
2412 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~  
2413 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the

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2414 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and  
2415 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early  
2416 literacy and who completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2417 Education Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b).

2418 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based  
2419 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~  
2420 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just  
2421 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

2422 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in  
2423 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having  
2424 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as  
2425 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts  
2426 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial  
2427 deficiency in early literacy and who completed the Voluntary  
2428 Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s. 1008.25(5)(b).

2429 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of  
2430 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~  
2431 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-  
2432 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by  
2433 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,  
2434 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan  
2435 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved  
2436 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a  
2437 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach  
2438 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may

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2439 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School  
2440 districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing  
2441 their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading  
2442 intervention through innovative methods, including career  
2443 academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from  
2444 school district personnel, including teachers and principals,  
2445 and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through  
2446 integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-  
2447 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher  
2448 who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must  
2449 incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just  
2450 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than  
2451 July 1 annually, the department shall release the school  
2452 district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts  
2453 having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent  
2454 of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have  
2455 been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold  
2456 funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation  
2457 funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The  
2458 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each  
2459 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting  
2460 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.  
2461 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its  
2462 findings to the Legislature.

2463 2. Each school district that has a school designated as

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2464 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified  
 2465 in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the  
 2466 comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the  
 2467 comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and  
 2468 reading intervention strategies that will be used for the  
 2469 required additional hour of reading instruction. The term  
 2470 "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies  
 2471 frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also  
 2472 includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use  
 2473 of technology that targets specific reading skills and  
 2474 abilities.

2475  
 2476 For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means  
 2477 demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving  
 2478 student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

2479 Section 33. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

2480  
 2481 -----

2482 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

2483 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:  
 2484 An act relating to early learning and early grade  
 2485 success; amending s. 39.604, F.S.; revising approved  
 2486 child care or early education settings for the  
 2487 placement of certain children; conforming cross-  
 2488 references; amending ss. 212.08 and 402.26, F.S.;

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2489 conforming provisions and cross-references to changes  
2490 made by the act; providing for a type two transfer of  
2491 the Gold Seal Quality Care program in the Department  
2492 of Children and Families to the Office of Early  
2493 Learning; providing for the continuation of certain  
2494 contracts and interagency agreements; amending ss.  
2495 402.315 and 1001.213, F.S.; conforming cross-  
2496 references; amending ss. 1001.215 and 1001.23, F.S.;  
2497 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
2498 amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; revising the requirements  
2499 for certain program provider profiles; requiring each  
2500 parent who enrolls his or her child in the Voluntary  
2501 Prekindergarten Education Program to allow his or her  
2502 child to participate in a specified screening and  
2503 progress monitoring program; amending s. 1002.32,  
2504 F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending s.  
2505 1002.55, F.S.; authorizing certain child development  
2506 programs operating on a military installation to be  
2507 private prekindergarten providers within the Voluntary  
2508 Prekindergarten Education Program; providing that a  
2509 private prekindergarten provider is ineligible for  
2510 participation in the program under certain  
2511 circumstances; revising requirements for  
2512 prekindergarten instructors; revising requirements for  
2513 specified courses for prekindergarten instructors;

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2514 providing that a private school administrator who  
2515 holds a specified certificate meets certain credential  
2516 requirements; providing liability insurance  
2517 requirements for child development programs operating  
2518 on a military installation participating in the  
2519 program; requiring early learning coalitions to verify  
2520 private prekindergarten provider compliance with  
2521 specified provisions; requiring such coalitions to  
2522 remove a provider's eligibility under specified  
2523 circumstances; conforming provisions to changes made  
2524 by the act; amending s. 1002.57, F.S.; revising the  
2525 minimum standards for a credential for certain  
2526 prekindergarten directors; amending s. 1002.59, F.S.;  
2527 revising requirements for emergent literacy and  
2528 performance standards training courses for  
2529 prekindergarten instructors; requiring the department  
2530 to make certain courses available online; amending s.  
2531 1002.61, F.S.; authorizing certain child development  
2532 programs operating on a military installation to be  
2533 private prekindergarten providers within the summer  
2534 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
2535 conforming a provision to changes made by the act;  
2536 revising the criteria for a teacher to receive  
2537 priority for the summer program in a school district;  
2538 requiring a child development program operating on a

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2539 military installation to comply with specified  
2540 criteria; requiring early learning coalitions to  
2541 verify specified information; providing for the  
2542 removal of a program provider or public school from  
2543 eligibility under certain circumstances; amending s.  
2544 1002.63, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made  
2545 by the act; requiring early learning coalitions to  
2546 verify specified information; providing for the  
2547 removal of public schools from the program under  
2548 certain circumstances; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.;  
2549 revising the performance standards for the Voluntary  
2550 Prekindergarten Education Program; requiring the  
2551 department to review and revise performance standards  
2552 on a specified schedule; revising curriculum  
2553 requirements for the program; conforming a provision  
2554 to changes made by the act; requiring the office to  
2555 adopt procedures for the review and approval of  
2556 curricula for the program; deleting a required  
2557 preassessment and postassessment for the program;  
2558 creating s. 1002.68, F.S.; requiring providers of the  
2559 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to  
2560 participate in a specified screening and progress  
2561 monitoring program; providing specified uses for the  
2562 results of such program; requiring certain portions of  
2563 the screening and progress monitoring program to be

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2564 administered by individuals who meet specified  
2565 criteria; requiring the results of the screening and  
2566 monitoring to be reported to the parents of  
2567 participating students; requiring providers to  
2568 participate in a program assessment; providing  
2569 requirements for such assessments; providing office  
2570 duties and responsibilities relating to such  
2571 assessments; providing requirements for a specified  
2572 methodology used to calculate the results of such  
2573 assessments; requiring the department to establish a  
2574 designation system for program providers; providing  
2575 for the adoption of a minimum performance metric or  
2576 designation for program participation; providing  
2577 procedures for a provider whose score or designation  
2578 falls below the minimum requirement; providing for the  
2579 revocation of program eligibility for a provider;  
2580 providing procedures for requalification; authorizing  
2581 the department to grant good cause exemptions to  
2582 providers under certain circumstances; providing  
2583 office and provider requirements for such exemptions;  
2584 requiring an annual meeting of representatives from  
2585 specified entities to develop certain strategies;  
2586 repealing s. 1002.69, F.S., relating to statewide  
2587 kindergarten screening and readiness rates; amending  
2588 s. 1002.73, F.S.; requiring the office to adopt a

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2589 statewide provider contract; requiring such contract  
2590 to be published on the office's website; providing  
2591 requirements for such contract; prohibiting providers  
2592 from offering services during an appeal of termination  
2593 from the program; providing applicability; requiring  
2594 the office to adopt specified procedures relating to  
2595 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;  
2596 providing duties of the office relating to such  
2597 program; repealing s. 1002.75, F.S., relating to the  
2598 powers and duties of the Office of Early Learning;  
2599 amending 1002.81, F.S.; conforming provisions and  
2600 cross-references to changes made by the act; amending  
2601 s. 1002.82, F.S.; providing duties of the office  
2602 relating to early learning; authorizing an alternative  
2603 model for the calculation of prevailing market rate;  
2604 exempting certain child development programs operating  
2605 on a military installation from specified inspection  
2606 requirements; requiring the office to monitor  
2607 specified standards and benchmarks for certain  
2608 purposes; revising the age range used for specified  
2609 standards; requiring the office to provide specified  
2610 technical support; revising requirements for a  
2611 specified assessment program; requiring the office to  
2612 adopt requirements to make certain contracted slots  
2613 available to serve specified populations; requiring

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2614 the office to adopt certain standards and outcome  
2615 measures including specified surveys; requiring the  
2616 office to adopt procedures for the merging of early  
2617 learning coalitions; revising the requirements for a  
2618 specified report; amending s. 1002.83, F.S.; revising  
2619 the number of authorized early learning coalitions;  
2620 revising the number of and requirements for members of  
2621 an early learning coalition; revising and adding  
2622 requirements for such coalitions; amending s. 1002.84,  
2623 F.S.; revising early learning coalition  
2624 responsibilities and duties; conforming a cross-  
2625 reference; revising requirements for the waiver of  
2626 specified copayments; amending s. 1002.85, F.S.;  
2627 revising the requirements for school readiness program  
2628 plans; amending s. 1002.88, F.S.; authorizing certain  
2629 child development programs operating on military  
2630 installations to participate in the school readiness  
2631 program; revising requirements to deliver such  
2632 program; providing that a specified annual inspection  
2633 for a child development program participating in the  
2634 school readiness program meets certain provider  
2635 requirements; providing requirements for a child  
2636 development program to meet certain liability  
2637 requirements; amending s. 1002.895, F.S.; requiring  
2638 the office to adopt certain procedures until a

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2639 specified event; conforming provisions to changes made  
2640 by the act; amending s. 1002.92, F.S.; conforming a  
2641 cross-reference; revising the requirements for  
2642 specified services that child care resource and  
2643 referral agencies must provide; transferring,  
2644 renumbering, and amending s. 402.281, F.S.; revising  
2645 the requirements of the Gold Seal Quality Care  
2646 program; requiring the Office of Early Learning to  
2647 adopt specified rules; revising accrediting  
2648 association requirements; providing requirements for  
2649 accrediting associations; requiring the department to  
2650 establish a specified process; providing requirements  
2651 for such process; deleting a requirement for the  
2652 department to consult certain entities for specified  
2653 purposes; providing requirements for certain providers  
2654 to maintain Gold Seal Quality Care status; providing  
2655 exemptions to certain ad valorem taxes; providing rate  
2656 differentials to certain providers; creating s.  
2657 1008.2125, F.S.; creating the coordinated screening  
2658 and progress monitoring program within the department  
2659 for specified purposes; requiring the Commissioner of  
2660 Education to design such program; providing  
2661 requirements for the administration of such program  
2662 and the use of results from the program; providing  
2663 requirements for the commissioner; creating the

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2664 Council for Early Grade Success within the department;  
2665 providing duties of the council; providing membership  
2666 of the council; requiring the council to elect a chair  
2667 and a vice chair; providing requirements for such  
2668 appointments; providing for per diem for members of  
2669 the council; providing meeting requirements for the  
2670 council; providing for a quorum of the council;  
2671 amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; authorizing certain  
2672 students enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
2673 Education Program to receive intensive reading  
2674 interventions using specified funds; amending s.  
2675 1011.62, F.S.; revising the research-based reading  
2676 instruction allocation to authorize the use of such  
2677 funds for certain intensive reading interventions for  
2678 certain students; revising the requirements for  
2679 specified reading instruction and interventions;  
2680 defining the term "evidence-based"; providing an  
2681 effective date.

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