

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to early learning and early grade
3 success; amending s. 20.055, F.S.; conforming
4 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
5 20.15, F.S.; deleting the Office of Early Learning
6 from within the Office of Independent Education and
7 Parental Choice of the Department of Education;
8 establishing the Division of Early Learning within the
9 department; amending s. 39.202, F.S.; conforming
10 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
11 39.604, F.S.; revising approved child care or early
12 education settings for the placement of certain
13 children; conforming a cross-reference to changes made
14 by the act; amending ss. 212.08, 216.136, 383.14,
15 391.308, and 402.26, F.S.; conforming provisions and
16 cross-references to changes made by the act;
17 transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 402.281,
18 F.S.; revising the requirements of the Gold Seal
19 Quality Care program; requiring the State Board of
20 Education to adopt specified rules; revising
21 accrediting association requirements; providing
22 requirements for accrediting associations; requiring
23 the department to adopt a specified process; providing
24 requirements for such process; deleting a requirement
25 for the department to consult certain entities for

26 | specified purposes; providing requirements for certain
27 | providers to maintain Gold Seal Quality Care status;
28 | providing exemptions to certain ad valorem taxes;
29 | providing rate differentials to certain providers;
30 | providing for a type two transfer of the Gold Seal
31 | Quality Care program in the Department of Children and
32 | Families to the Department of Education; providing for
33 | the continuation of certain contracts and interagency
34 | agreements; amending s. 402.315, F.S.; conforming a
35 | cross-reference to changes made by the act; amending
36 | s. 402.56, F.S.; revising the membership of the
37 | Children and Youth Cabinet; amending ss. 411.227,
38 | 414.295, 1000.01, 1000.02, 1000.03, 1000.04, 1000.21,
39 | 1001.02, 1001.03, 1001.10, and 1001.11, F.S.;
40 | conforming provisions and cross-references to changes
41 | made by the act; repealing s. 1001.213, F.S., relating
42 | to the Office of Early Learning; amending ss.
43 | 1001.215, 1001.23, 1001.70, 1001.706, 1002.22,
44 | 1002.32, 1002.34, and 1002.36 F.S.; conforming
45 | provisions and cross-references to changes made by the
46 | act; amending s. 1002.53, F.S.; revising the
47 | requirements for certain program provider profiles;
48 | removing a requirement that certain providers comply
49 | with a specified federal law; requiring certain
50 | providers to comply with a specified state law;

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

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

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

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

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

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

201 for specified purposes; requiring the Commissioner of
202 Education to design such program; providing
203 requirements for the administration of such program
204 and the use of results from the program; providing
205 requirements for the commissioner; creating the
206 Council for Early Grade Success; providing duties of
207 the council; providing membership of the council;
208 requiring the council to elect a chair and a vice
209 chair; providing requirements for such appointments;
210 providing for per diem for members of the council;
211 providing meeting requirements for the council;
212 providing for a quorum of the council; amending s.
213 1008.25, F.S.; authorizing certain students who
214 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
215 Program to receive intensive reading interventions
216 using specified funds; amending ss. 1008.31, 1008.32,
217 and 1008.33, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes
218 made by the act; amending s. 1011.62, F.S.; revising
219 the research-based reading instruction allocation to
220 authorize the use of such funds for certain intensive
221 reading interventions for certain students; revising
222 the requirements for specified reading instruction and
223 interventions; defining the term "evidence-based";
224 providing an effective date.
225

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

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

229 20.055 Agency inspectors general.—

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

231 (a) "Agency head" means the Governor, a Cabinet officer,
 232 or a secretary or executive director as those terms are defined
 233 in s. 20.03, the chair of the Public Service Commission, the
 234 Director of the Office of Insurance Regulation of the Financial
 235 Services Commission, the Director of the Office of Financial
 236 Regulation of the Financial Services Commission, the board of
 237 directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, ~~the~~
 238 ~~executive director of the Office of Early Learning,~~ and the
 239 Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

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

249 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection (3) of
 250 section 20.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs

251 (d) through (k), respectively, present paragraph (i) of
 252 subsection (3) and subsection (5) are amended, and a new
 253 paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to
 254 read:

255 20.15 Department of Education.—There is created a
 256 Department of Education.

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

259 (c) Division of Early Learning.

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

262 ~~1. The Office of Early Learning, which shall be~~
 263 ~~administered by an executive director who is fully accountable~~
 264 ~~to the Commissioner of Education. The executive director shall,~~
 265 ~~pursuant to s. 1001.213, administer the early learning programs,~~
 266 ~~including the school readiness program and the Voluntary~~
 267 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program at the state level.~~

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

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

276 | ~~to~~ education under the jurisdiction of the State Board of
 277 | Education.

278 | Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 279 | 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

280 | 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
 281 | child abuse or neglect.—

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

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

- 291 | 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 292 | 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 293 | 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 294 | 4. Healthy Start services;
- 295 | 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
 296 | child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393,
 297 | family day care homes, providers who receive school readiness
 298 | funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other homes used to
 299 | provide for the care and welfare of children;
- 300 | 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential

301 group homes; or

302 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided
303 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
304 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

305

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

309 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
310 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

311 39.604 Rilya Wilson Act; short title; legislative intent;
312 child care; early education; preschool.—

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

320 (b) If it is not in the best interest of the child for him
321 or her to remain in his or her child care or early education
322 setting upon entry into out-of-home care, the caregiver must
323 work with the case manager, guardian ad litem, child care and
324 educational staff, and educational surrogate, if one has been
325 appointed, to determine the best setting for the child. Such

326 setting may be a child care provider that receives a Gold Seal
 327 Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~, a
 328 ~~provider participating in a quality rating system~~, a licensed
 329 child care provider, a public school provider, or a license-
 330 exempt child care provider, including religious-exempt and
 331 registered providers, and nonpublic schools.

332 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section
 333 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

340 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

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

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

354 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section
355 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

356 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and
357 principals.—

358 (8) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.—

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

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

368 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary
369 and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.—

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

376 and practical in the judgment of the department. The department
377 shall also promote the identification and screening of all
378 newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk
379 factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family
380 stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other high-
381 risk conditions associated with increased risk of infant
382 mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention,
383 remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited
384 to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and
385 case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and
386 intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately
387 following the birth of the child by the attending health care
388 provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals,
389 perinatal centers, county health departments, school health
390 programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and
391 reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

392 (b) Postnatal screening.—A risk factor analysis using the
393 department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be
394 conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the
395 birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of
396 Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for
397 in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk
398 assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that
399 establish thresholds for notification, further assessment,
400 referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or

401 | paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures
402 | for developing and using the screening instrument, notification,
403 | referral, and care coordination services, reporting
404 | requirements, management information, and maintenance of a
405 | computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which
406 | ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the
407 | provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No.
408 | 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting
409 | information and maintaining a confidential registry must include
410 | a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the
411 | state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with
412 | existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The
413 | department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the
414 | screening information registry is integrated with the
415 | department's automated data systems, including the Florida On-
416 | line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests
417 | and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health
418 | Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at
419 | such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department
420 | after consultation with the Genetics and Newborn Screening
421 | Advisory Council and the Department of Education ~~Office of Early~~
422 | ~~Learning~~.

423 | (2) RULES.—

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

426 | rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for
427 | environmental risk factors that place children and their
428 | families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other
429 | negative outcomes.

430 | Section 8. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section
431 | 391.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

437 | (h) Promote interagency cooperation and coordination, with
438 | the Medicaid program, the Department of Education program
439 | pursuant to part B of the federal Individuals with Disabilities
440 | Education Act, and programs providing child screening such as
441 | the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System, ~~the Office~~
442 | ~~of Early Learning~~, Healthy Start, and the Help Me Grow program.

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

451 informal.

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

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

460 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

461 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~
462 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~
463 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~
464 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~
465 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~
466 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~
467 ~~196.198.~~

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

471 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

472 (1) (a) There is established within the Department of
473 Education the Gold Seal Quality Care Program.

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

476 association approved by the Department of Education under
 477 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon
 478 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal
 479 Quality Care" designation.

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

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

- 492 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.
- 493 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or
 494 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state
 495 board ~~department~~ under subsection (2).
- 496 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of
 497 State.
- 498 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation
 499 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:
 500 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care

501 provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process.
502 However, accreditation may not be granted to a child care
503 facility, large family child care home, or family day care home
504 before the site is operational and is attended by children.

505 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and
506 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom
507 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

508 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to
509 ensure inter-rater reliability.

510 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring
511 each accredited child care facility, large family child care
512 home, and family day care home to file an annual report with the
513 accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing
514 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family
515 child care homes, and family day care homes.

516 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to
517 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-
518 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by
519 the accrediting association.

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

522 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation
523 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of
524 facilities.

525 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the

526 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a
527 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including
528 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and
529 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if
530 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

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

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

551 subsection (6).

552 ~~(b) In approving accrediting associations, the department~~
553 ~~shall consult with the Department of Education, the Florida Head~~
554 ~~Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child~~
555 ~~Care Management, the Florida Family Child Care Home Association,~~
556 ~~the Florida Children's Forum, the Florida Association for the~~
557 ~~Education of the Young, the Child Development Education~~
558 ~~Alliance, the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools,~~
559 ~~the Association of Early Learning Coalitions, providers~~
560 ~~receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and parents.~~

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

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

572 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or
573 more class II violations, as defined by rule of the Department
574 of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its
575 application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care

576 provider. Commission of three or more class II violations within
577 a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the
578 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
579 provider has no class II violations for a period of 1 year.

580 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for
581 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the
582 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and
583 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of
584 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for
585 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
586 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to
587 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be
588 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal
589 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III
590 violations for a period of 1 year.

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

598 (5) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a
599 child care facility exempt from licensing under s. 402.316 which
600 achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section shall be

601 considered an educational institution for the purpose of
602 qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s. 196.198.

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

609 (7)~~(5)~~ The state board ~~Department of Children and Families~~
610 shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide
611 criteria and procedures for reviewing and approving accrediting
612 associations for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care
613 program and~~7~~ conferring and revoking designations of Gold Seal
614 Quality Care providers, ~~and classifying violations.~~

615 Section 11. Type two transfer from the Department of
616 Children and Families.-

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

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

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

636 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

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

642 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 643 402.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

644 402.56 Children's cabinet; organization; responsibilities;
 645 annual report.—

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

- 648 (a)1. The Secretary of Children and Families;
- 649 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;
- 650 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with

651 Disabilities;

652 4. A representative from the Division ~~The director of the~~
 653 ~~Office~~ of Early Learning;

654 5. The State Surgeon General;

655 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;

656 7. The Commissioner of Education;

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

658 9. A representative of the Office of Adoption and Child
 659 Protection;

660 10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the
 661 Governor; and

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

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

668 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.—The Learning
 669 Gateway system consists of the following components:

670 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED
 671 ACCESS.—

672 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the
 673 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies
 674 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,
 675 precursors of learning problems and other developmental delays,

676 and the service system that is available. The information should
677 target parents of children from birth through age 9 and should
678 be distributed to parents, health care providers, and caregivers
679 of children from birth through age 9. A variety of media should
680 be used as appropriate, such as print, television, radio, and a
681 community-based Internet website, as well as opportunities such
682 as those presented by parent visits to physicians for well-child
683 checkups. The Learning Gateway Steering Committee shall provide
684 technical assistance to the local demonstration projects in
685 developing and distributing educational materials and
686 information.

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

694 2. Public awareness strategies targeting parents of
695 children from ages 6 through 9 must be designed to disseminate
696 training materials and brochures to parents and public and
697 private school personnel, and must be coordinated with the local
698 school board and the appropriate school advisory committees in
699 the demonstration projects. The materials should contain
700 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades

701 K-3.

702 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.—

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

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

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

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

722 414.295 Temporary cash assistance programs; public records
 723 exemption.—

724 (1) Personal identifying information of a temporary cash
 725 assistance program participant, a participant's family, or a

726 participant's family or household member, except for information
727 identifying a parent who does not live in the same home as the
728 child, which is held by the department, ~~the Office of Early~~
729 ~~Learning~~, CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Department of Health,
730 the Department of Revenue, the Department of Education, or a
731 local workforce development board or local committee created
732 pursuant to s. 445.007 is confidential and exempt from s.
733 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. Such
734 confidential and exempt information may be released for purposes
735 directly connected with:

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

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

749 (c) An investigation, prosecution, or criminal, civil, or
750 administrative proceeding conducted in connection with the

751 administration of any of the plans or programs specified in
 752 paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) by a federal, state, or local
 753 governmental entity, upon request by that entity, if such
 754 request is made pursuant to the proper exercise of that entity's
 755 duties and responsibilities.

756 (d) The administration of any other state, federal, or
 757 federally assisted program that provides assistance or services
 758 on the basis of need, in cash or in kind, directly to a
 759 participant.

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

765 (f) The administration of the reemployment assistance
 766 program.

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

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

775 Section 16. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is amended

776 to read:

777 1000.01 The Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
778 system; technical provisions.—

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

781 (2) LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions of the Florida
782 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code shall be liberally
783 construed to the end that its objectives may be effected. It is
784 the legislative intent that if any section, subsection,
785 sentence, clause, or provision of the Florida Early Learning-20
786 ~~K-20~~ Education Code is held invalid, the remainder of the code
787 shall not be affected.

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

797 (4) UNIFORM SYSTEM OF PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS INCLUDED.—As
798 required by s. 1, Art. IX of the State Constitution, the Florida
799 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system shall include the
800 uniform system of free public K-12 schools. These public K-12

801 schools shall provide 13 consecutive years of instruction,
802 beginning with kindergarten, and shall also provide such
803 instruction for students with disabilities, gifted students,
804 limited English proficient students, and students in Department
805 of Juvenile Justice programs as may be required by law. The
806 funds for support and maintenance of the uniform system of free
807 public K-12 schools shall be derived from state, district,
808 federal, and other lawful sources or combinations of sources,
809 including any fees charged nonresidents as provided by law.

810 Section 17. Paragraph (a) of Subsection (1) and subsection
811 (2) of section 1000.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

812 1000.02 Policy and guiding principles for the Florida
813 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

826 (d) A system that safeguards equity and supports academic
827 excellence.

828 (e) A system that provides for local operational
829 flexibility while promoting accountability for student
830 achievement and improvement.

831 Section 18. Section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, is amended
832 to read:

833 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida Early
834 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—

835 (1) Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
836 shall be a decentralized system without excess layers of
837 bureaucracy. Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
838 shall maintain a systemwide technology plan based on a common
839 set of data definitions.

840 (2) (a) The Legislature shall establish education policy,
841 enact education laws, and appropriate and allocate education
842 resources.

843 (b) With the exception of matters relating to the State
844 University System, the State Board of Education shall oversee
845 the enforcement of all laws and rules, and the timely provision
846 of direction, resources, assistance, intervention when needed,
847 and strong incentives and disincentives to force accountability
848 for results.

849 (c) The Board of Governors shall oversee the enforcement
850 of all state university laws and rules and regulations and the

851 timely provision of direction, resources, assistance,
852 intervention when needed, and strong incentives and
853 disincentives to force accountability for results.

854 (3) Public education is a cooperative function of the
855 state and local educational authorities. The state retains
856 responsibility for establishing a system of public education
857 through laws, standards, and rules to assure efficient operation
858 of an Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ system of public education and
859 adequate educational opportunities for all individuals. Local
860 educational authorities have a duty to fully and faithfully
861 comply with state laws, standards, and rules and to efficiently
862 use the resources available to them to assist the state in
863 allowing adequate educational opportunities.

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

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

872 (a) Learning and completion at all levels, including
873 increased high school graduation rate and readiness for
874 postsecondary education without remediation.—All students
875 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,

876 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter
877 postsecondary education without remediation.

878 (b) Student performance.—Students demonstrate that they
879 meet the expected academic standards consistently at all levels
880 of their education.

881 (c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become
882 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive
883 contributions to their communities.

884 (d) Alignment of standards and resources.—Academic
885 standards for every level of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
886 education system are aligned, and education financial resources
887 are aligned with student performance expectations at each level
888 of the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

889 (e) Educational leadership.—The quality of educational
890 leadership at all levels of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education is
891 improved.

892 (f) Workforce education.—Workforce education is
893 appropriately aligned with the skills required by the new global
894 economy.

895 (g) Parental, student, family, educational institution,
896 and community involvement.—Parents, students, families,
897 educational institutions, and communities are collaborative
898 partners in education, and each plays an important role in the
899 success of individual students. Therefore, the State of Florida
900 cannot be the guarantor of each individual student's success.

901 The goals of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system
902 are not guarantees that each individual student will succeed or
903 that each individual school will perform at the level indicated
904 in the goals.

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

910 1. Career opportunities, educational requirements
911 associated with each career, educational institutions that
912 prepare students to enter each career, and student financial aid
913 available to pursue postsecondary instruction required to enter
914 each career.

915 2. How to make informed decisions about the program of
916 study that best addresses the students' interests and abilities
917 while preparing them to enter postsecondary education or the
918 workforce.

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

921
922 This information shall be provided to students and parents
923 through websites, handbooks, manuals, or other regularly
924 provided communications.

925 Section 19. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended

926 | to read:

927 | 1000.04 Components for the delivery of public education
 928 | within the Florida Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.—
 929 | Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system provides for
 930 | the delivery of early learning and public education through
 931 | publicly supported and controlled K-12 schools, Florida College
 932 | System institutions, state universities and other postsecondary
 933 | educational institutions, other educational institutions, and
 934 | other educational services as provided or authorized by the
 935 | Constitution and laws of the state.

936 | (1) EARLY LEARNING.—Early learning includes the Voluntary
 937 | Prekindergarten Education Program and the school readiness
 938 | program.

939 | (2)~~(1)~~ PUBLIC K-12 SCHOOLS.—The public K-12 schools
 940 | include charter schools and consist of kindergarten classes;
 941 | elementary, middle, and high school grades and special classes;
 942 | virtual instruction programs; workforce education; career
 943 | centers; adult, part-time, and evening schools, courses, or
 944 | classes, as authorized by law to be operated under the control
 945 | of district school boards; and lab schools operated under the
 946 | control of state universities.

947 | (3)~~(2)~~ PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—
 948 | Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce
 949 | education; Florida College System institutions; state
 950 | universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary

951 educational institutions that are authorized and established by
952 law.

953 (4)~~(3)~~ FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.—The
954 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind is a component of the
955 delivery of public education within Florida's Early Learning-20
956 ~~K-20~~ education system.

957 (5)~~(4)~~ THE FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL.—The Florida Virtual
958 School is a component of the delivery of public education within
959 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

960 Section 20. Section 1000.21, Florida Statutes, is amended
961 to read:

962 1000.21 Systemwide definitions.—As used in the Florida
963 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code:

964 (1) "Articulation" is the systematic coordination that
965 provides the means by which students proceed toward their
966 educational objectives in as rapid and student-friendly manner
967 as their circumstances permit, from grade level to grade level,
968 from elementary to middle to high school, to and through
969 postsecondary education, and when transferring from one
970 educational institution or program to another.

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

972 (3) "Florida College System institution" except as
973 otherwise specifically provided, includes all of the following
974 public postsecondary educational institutions in the Florida
975 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other

976 affiliates of the institution:

977 (a) Eastern Florida State College, which serves Brevard
978 County.

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

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

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

984 (e) Daytona State College, which serves Flagler and
985 Volusia Counties.

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

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

990 (h) The College of the Florida Keys, which serves Monroe
991 County.

992 (i) Gulf Coast State College, which serves Bay, Franklin,
993 and Gulf Counties.

994 (j) Hillsborough Community College, which serves
995 Hillsborough County.

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

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

1000 (m) Lake-Sumter State College, which serves Lake and

1001 Sumter Counties.

1002 (n) State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, which

1003 serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

1004 (o) Miami Dade College, which serves Miami-Dade County.

1005 (p) North Florida College, which serves Hamilton,

1006 Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.

1007 (q) Northwest Florida State College, which serves Okaloosa

1008 and Walton Counties.

1009 (r) Palm Beach State College, which serves Palm Beach

1010 County.

1011 (s) Pasco-Hernando State College, which serves Hernando

1012 and Pasco Counties.

1013 (t) Pensacola State College, which serves Escambia and

1014 Santa Rosa Counties.

1015 (u) Polk State College, which serves Polk County.

1016 (v) St. Johns River State College, which serves Clay,

1017 Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.

1018 (w) St. Petersburg College, which serves Pinellas County.

1019 (x) Santa Fe College, which serves Alachua and Bradford

1020 Counties.

1021 (y) Seminole State College of Florida, which serves

1022 Seminole County.

1023 (z) South Florida State College, which serves DeSoto,

1024 Hardee, and Highlands Counties.

1025 (aa) Tallahassee Community College, which serves Gadsden,

1026 Leon, and Wakulla Counties.

1027 (bb) Valencia College, which serves Orange and Osceola

1028 Counties.

1029 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.

1030 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student, any

1031 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to

1032 a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a

1033 student in place of the parent.

1034 (6) "State university," except as otherwise specifically

1035 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch

1036 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:

1037 (a) The University of Florida.

1038 (b) The Florida State University.

1039 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

1040 (d) The University of South Florida.

1041 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.

1042 (f) The University of West Florida.

1043 (g) The University of Central Florida.

1044 (h) The University of North Florida.

1045 (i) The Florida International University.

1046 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.

1047 (k) New College of Florida.

1048 (l) The Florida Polytechnic University.

1049 (7) "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" means the

1050 state's public K-12 curricular standards adopted under s.

1051 1003.41.

1052 (8) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the
1053 State University System.

1054 Section 21. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (s) of
1055 subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended
1056 to read:

1057 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—

1058 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief implementing
1059 and coordinating body of public education in Florida except for
1060 the State University System, and it shall focus on high-level
1061 policy decisions. It has authority to adopt rules pursuant to
1062 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law
1063 conferring duties upon it for the improvement of the state
1064 system of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public education except for the
1065 State University System. Except as otherwise provided herein, it
1066 may, as it finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the
1067 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of
1068 the department.

1069 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

1070 (e) To adopt and submit to the Governor and Legislature,
1071 as provided in s. 216.023, a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
1072 education budget that estimates the expenditure requirements for
1073 the Board of Governors, as provided in s. 1001.706, the State
1074 Board of Education, including the Department of Education and
1075 the Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards,

1076 institutions, agencies, and services under the general
 1077 supervision of the Board of Governors, as provided in s.
 1078 1001.706, or the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal
 1079 year. The State Board of Education may not amend the budget
 1080 request submitted by the Board of Governors. Any program
 1081 recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of
 1082 Education which will require increases in state funding for more
 1083 than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1084 (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the
 1085 implementation and operation of a systemwide ~~K-20~~ technology
 1086 plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

1087 Section 22. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1001.03,
 1088 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1089 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

1090 (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.—The State Board of Education
 1091 shall enforce compliance with law and state board rule by all
 1092 school districts, early learning coalitions, and public
 1093 postsecondary educational institutions, except for the State
 1094 University System, in accordance with the provisions of s.
 1095 1008.32.

1096 (9) MANAGEMENT INFORMATION DATABASES.—The State Board of
 1097 Education, in conjunction with the Board of Governors regarding
 1098 the State University System, shall continue to collect and
 1099 maintain, at a minimum, the management information databases for
 1100 state universities, and all other components of the public Early

1101 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system as such databases existed on
 1102 June 30, 2002.

1103 Section 23. Subsection (1), paragraphs (g), (k), and (l)
 1104 of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1001.10,
 1105 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1106 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and
 1107 duties.—

1108 (1) The Commissioner of Education is the chief educational
 1109 officer of the state and the sole custodian of the educational
 1110 ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, and is responsible for giving full
 1111 assistance to the State Board of Education in enforcing
 1112 compliance with the mission and goals of the Early Learning ~~K-20~~
 1113 education system, except for the State University System.

1114 (6) Additionally, the commissioner has the following
 1115 general powers and duties:

1116 (g) To submit to the State Board of Education, on or
 1117 before October 1 of each year, recommendations for a coordinated
 1118 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education budget that estimates the
 1119 expenditures for the Board of Governors, the State Board of
 1120 Education, including the Department of Education and the
 1121 Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards, institutions,
 1122 agencies, and services under the general supervision of the
 1123 Board of Governors or the State Board of Education for the
 1124 ensuing fiscal year. Any program recommended to the State Board
 1125 of Education that will require increases in state funding for

1126 | more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1127 | (k) To prepare, publish, and disseminate user-friendly
 1128 | materials relating to the state's education system, including
 1129 | the state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness
 1130 | program, and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1131 | (1) To prepare and publish annually reports giving
 1132 | statistics and other useful information pertaining to the
 1133 | state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness program,
 1134 | and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1135 | (8) In the event of an emergency situation, the
 1136 | commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means
 1137 | of communication with early learning coalitions, local school
 1138 | districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite
 1139 | offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of
 1140 | Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and
 1141 | assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite
 1142 | office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after
 1143 | considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and
 1144 | clients.

1145 | Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection
 1146 | (4) of section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1147 | 1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—

1148 | (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently
 1149 | perform the following duties:

1150 | (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the

1151 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the
 1152 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State
 1153 Board of Education, the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system,
 1154 and early learning programs.

1155 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an
 1156 integrated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ information system for
 1157 educational management in accordance with the requirements of
 1158 chapter 1008.

1159 Section 25. Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes, is
 1160 repealed.

1161 Section 26. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida
 1162 Statutes, is amended to read:

1163 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in
 1164 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The
 1165 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and
 1166 shall:

1167 (7) Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance to
 1168 school districts' implementation of the ~~K-12~~ comprehensive
 1169 reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

1170 Section 27. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida
 1171 Statutes, is amended to read:

1172 1001.23 Specific powers and duties of the Department of
 1173 Education.—In addition to all other duties assigned to it by law
 1174 or by rule of the State Board of Education, the department
 1175 shall:

1176 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~
 1177 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

1178 Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 1001.70, Florida
 1179 Statutes, is amended to read:

1180 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University
 1181 System.—

1182 (3) The Board of Governors, in exercising its authority
 1183 under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its
 1184 authority in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances an
 1185 Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ education system that provides
 1186 affordable access to postsecondary educational opportunities for
 1187 residents of the state to the extent authorized by the State
 1188 Constitution and state law.

1189 Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
 1190 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1191 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

1192 (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.—

1193 (b) The Board of Governors shall prepare the legislative
 1194 budget requests for the State University System, including a
 1195 request for fixed capital outlay, and submit them to the State
 1196 Board of Education for inclusion in the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 1197 legislative budget request. The Board of Governors shall provide
 1198 the state universities with fiscal policy guidelines, formats,
 1199 and instruction for the development of individual university
 1200 budget requests.

1201 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
 1202 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1203 1002.22 Education records and reports of K-12 students;
 1204 rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.—

1205 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1206 (b) "Institution" means any public school, center,
 1207 institution, or other entity that is part of Florida's education
 1208 system under s. 1000.04(2), (4), and (5) ~~s. 1000.04(1), (3), and~~
 1209 ~~(4)~~.

1210 Section 31. Subsections (3) and (10) of section 1002.32,
 1211 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1212 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

1213 (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the
 1214 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,
 1215 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,
 1216 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school
 1217 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.
 1218 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an
 1219 appropriate education for its students.

1220 (a) Each lab school shall emphasize mathematics, science,
 1221 computer science, and foreign languages. The primary goal of a
 1222 lab school is to enhance instruction and research in such
 1223 specialized subjects by using the resources available on a state
 1224 university campus, while also providing an education in
 1225 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide

1226 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where
1227 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade
1228 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State
1229 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement
1230 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

1231 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1232 lab school may be generated by the college of education and
1233 other colleges within the university with which the school is
1234 affiliated.

1235 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1236 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.
1237 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education
1238 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the
1239 affiliated college.

1240 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1241 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the
1242 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the
1243 Legislature.

1244 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab
1245 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals
1246 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.
1247 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education
1248 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the
1249 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

1250 (10) EXCEPTIONS TO LAW.—To encourage innovative practices

1251 and facilitate the mission of the lab schools, in addition to
 1252 the exceptions to law specified in s. 1001.23(1) ~~s. 1001.23(2)~~,
 1253 the following exceptions shall be permitted for lab schools:

1254 (a) The methods and requirements of the following statutes
 1255 shall be held in abeyance: ss. 316.75; 1001.30; 1001.31;
 1256 1001.32; 1001.33; 1001.34; 1001.35; 1001.36; 1001.361; 1001.362;
 1257 1001.363; 1001.37; 1001.371; 1001.372; 1001.38; 1001.39;
 1258 1001.395; 1001.40; 1001.41; 1001.44; 1001.453; 1001.46;
 1259 1001.461; 1001.462; 1001.463; 1001.464; 1001.47; 1001.48;
 1260 1001.49; 1001.50; 1001.51; 1006.12(2); 1006.21(3), (4); 1006.23;
 1261 1010.07(2); 1010.40; 1010.41; 1010.42; 1010.43; 1010.44;
 1262 1010.45; 1010.46; 1010.47; 1010.48; 1010.49; 1010.50; 1010.51;
 1263 1010.52; 1010.53; 1010.54; 1010.55; 1011.02(1)-(3), (5);
 1264 1011.04; 1011.20; 1011.21; 1011.22; 1011.23; 1011.71; 1011.72;
 1265 1011.73; and 1011.74.

1266 (b) With the exception of s. 1001.42(18), s. 1001.42 shall
 1267 be held in abeyance. Reference to district school boards in s.
 1268 1001.42(18) shall mean the president of the university or the
 1269 president's designee.

1270 Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section
 1271 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1272 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.—

1273 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

1274 (b) A center must comply with the Florida Early Learning-
 1275 20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code with respect to providing services to

1276 students with disabilities.

1277 Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 1002.36, Florida
 1278 Statutes, is amended to read:

1279 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

1280 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida School for the Deaf and
 1281 the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported
 1282 residential public school for hearing-impaired and visually
 1283 impaired students in preschool through 12th grade. The school is
 1284 a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's
 1285 Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system and shall be funded
 1286 through the Department of Education. The school shall provide
 1287 educational programs and support services appropriate to meet
 1288 the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of
 1289 hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in the state who
 1290 meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the
 1291 school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state
 1292 agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach
 1293 basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5 years and
 1294 to district school boards upon request. Graduates of the Florida
 1295 School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the
 1296 William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant
 1297 Program as provided in s. 1009.89.

1298 Section 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4), subsection
 1299 (5), and paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section 1002.53,
 1300 Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (d) is added to

1301 subsection (6) of that section, to read:

1302 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
 1303 eligibility and enrollment.—

1304 (4)

1305 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed
 1306 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ and must be
 1307 accompanied by a certified copy of the child's birth
 1308 certificate. The forms must include a certification, in
 1309 substantially the form provided in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the
 1310 parent chooses the private prekindergarten provider or public
 1311 school in accordance with this section and directs that payments
 1312 for the program be made to the provider or school. The
 1313 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ may authorize alternative
 1314 methods for submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a
 1315 certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

1316 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent
 1317 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1318 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider
 1319 and public school delivering the program within the county where
 1320 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to
 1321 parents in a format prescribed by the department in accordance
 1322 with s. 1002.92(3) ~~Office of Early Learning~~. ~~The profiles must~~
 1323 ~~include, at a minimum, the following information about each~~
 1324 ~~provider and school:~~

1325 ~~(a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,~~

1326 ~~instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and~~
1327 ~~(b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate~~
1328 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most~~
1329 ~~recent available results of the statewide kindergarten~~
1330 ~~screening.~~
1331 (6)
1332 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public school
1333 must comply with the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 in
1334 accordance with chapter 760 ~~antidiscrimination requirements of~~
1335 ~~42 U.S.C. s. 2000d~~, regardless of whether the provider or school
1336 receives federal financial assistance. A private prekindergarten
1337 provider or public school may not discriminate against a parent
1338 or child, including the refusal to admit a child for enrollment
1339 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, in violation
1340 of chapter 760 ~~these antidiscrimination requirements.~~
1341 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the
1342 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or
1343 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and
1344 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.
1345 Section 35. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i),
1346 (j), and (l) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph
1347 (b) of subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are
1348 amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:
1349 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
1350 private prekindergarten providers.—

1351 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
 1352 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
 1353 following requirements:

1354 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
 1355 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
 1356 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
 1357 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under
 1358 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from
 1359 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is
 1360 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
 1361 military installation that is certified by the United States
 1362 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that
 1363 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A
 1364 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program
 1365 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1366 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:
 1367 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a
 1368 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,
 1369 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be
 1370 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
 1371 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central
 1372 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States
 1373 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association
 1374 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation
 1375 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements

1376 under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at
1377 least one onsite visit to the provider or school before
1378 accreditation is granted;

1379 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under
1380 s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~; or

1381 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
1382 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary
1383 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early
1384 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the
1385 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not
1386 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background
1387 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)
1388 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),
1389 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a
1390 developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

1391 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for
1392 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one
1393 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following
1394 requirements:

1395 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,
1396 one of the following credentials:

1397 a. A child development associate credential issued by the
1398 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
1399 Recognition; or

1400 b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and

1401 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential
1402 described in sub-subparagraph a.

1403

1404 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under
1405 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures
1406 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

1407 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully
1408 complete three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses that
1409 include developmentally appropriate and experiential learning
1410 practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance
1411 standards training course approved by the department ~~office~~ as
1412 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.
1413 1002.59. The prekindergarten instructor must complete an
1414 emergent literacy training course at least once every 5 years
1415 after initially completing the three emergent literacy training
1416 courses. The courses in this subparagraph must be recognized as
1417 part of the informal early learning and career pathway
1418 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). The
1419 requirement for completion of the standards training course
1420 shall take effect July 1, 2022. ~~2014,~~ The courses must ~~and the~~
1421 ~~course shall~~ be available online or in person.

1422 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a
1423 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
1424 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
1425 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute

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

1434 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a
1435 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director
1436 credential that is approved by the department ~~office~~ as meeting
1437 or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. A
1438 private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in
1439 educational leadership issued by the department satisfies the
1440 requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under s.
1441 1002.57. Successful completion of a child care facility director
1442 credential under s. 402.305(2)(g) before the establishment of
1443 the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July
1444 1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a
1445 prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.

1446 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register
1447 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the
1448 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

1449 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the
1450 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~

1451 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple
1452 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's
1453 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition
1454 on behalf of each site ~~provider~~.

1455 (j) The private prekindergarten provider must maintain
1456 general liability insurance and provide the coalition with
1457 written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
1458 including coverage for transportation of children if
1459 prekindergarten students are transported by the provider. A
1460 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that
1461 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a
1462 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
1463 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
1464 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder
1465 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the
1466 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written
1467 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general
1468 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in
1469 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider
1470 contract with the coalition.

1471 (l) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private
1472 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision
1473 thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to
1474 notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage
1475 maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise

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

1484 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum
1485 credentials ~~and courses~~ required under paragraph (3)(c), may
1486 hold one of the following educational credentials:

1487 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood
1488 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool
1489 education, or family and consumer science;

1490 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,
1491 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach
1492 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of
1493 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if
1494 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school
1495 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

1496 (c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;

1497 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,
1498 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child
1499 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or
1500 providing child care services for children any age from birth

1501 through 8 years of age; or

1502 (e) An educational credential approved by the department
 1503 as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential
 1504 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria
 1505 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials
 1506 under this paragraph.

1507 (5)

1508 (b) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, if a
 1509 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
 1510 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program
 1511 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
 1512 may refuse to contract with the provider.

1513 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each
 1514 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary
 1515 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
 1516 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private
 1517 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this
 1518 part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require the
 1519 early learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility
 1520 to deliver the program and receive state funds under this part
 1521 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1522 Section 36. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of
 1523 section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 1524 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, subsection (1) is amended,
 1525 and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (2) of that

1526 | section, to read:

1527 | 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

1528 | (1) The department ~~office~~, in consultation with the
 1529 | Department of Children and Families, shall adopt minimum
 1530 | standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of
 1531 | private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary
 1532 | Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass
 1533 | requirements for education and onsite experience.

1534 | (2) The educational requirements must include training in
 1535 | the following:

1536 | (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-
 1537 | level data to inform the delivery of instruction;

1538 | Section 37. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1539 | to read:

1540 | 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards
 1541 | training courses.—

1542 | (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
 1543 | for ~~one or more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for
 1544 | prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock
 1545 | hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to
 1546 | address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students
 1547 | in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral
 1548 | communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and
 1549 | phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension
 1550 | development. Each course must also provide resources containing

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

1558 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
1559 for ~~one or more training~~ courses on the performance standards
1560 adopted under s. 1002.67(1). Each course must be comprised of
1561 ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide instruction in
1562 strategies and techniques to address age-appropriate progress of
1563 each child in attaining the standards, and be available online.

1564 (3) The department shall make available online
1565 professional development and training courses comprised of at
1566 least 8 clock hours that support prekindergarten instructors in
1567 increasing the competency of teacher-child interactions.

1568 Section 38. Subsections (6) through (8) of section
1569 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7)
1570 through (9), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (1),
1571 paragraph (b) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and present
1572 subsections (6) and (8) are amended, and new subsections (6) and
1573 (10) are added to that section, to read:

1574 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
1575 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

1576 (1)

1577 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the

1578 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or

1579 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a

1580 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private

1581 prekindergarten provider. A child development program that is

1582 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a

1583 military installation that is certified by the United States

1584 Department of Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten

1585 program as a private prekindergarten provider.

1586 (3)

1587 (b) Each public school delivering the summer

1588 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider

1589 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the

1590 school district may execute a single agreement with the early

1591 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1592 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),

1593 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must

1594 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one

1595 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds

1596 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)

1597 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"

1598 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate

1599 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the

1600 district school board to instruct students in the summer

1601 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for
1602 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall
1603 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in
1604 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy
1605 and performance standards courses, as provided for in s.
1606 1002.55 (3) (c) 2.

1607 (6) A child development program that is accredited by a
1608 national accrediting body and operates on a military
1609 installation that is certified by the United States Department
1610 of Defense shall comply with the requirements of a private
1611 prekindergarten provider in this section.

1612 (7)~~(6)~~ A public school or private prekindergarten provider
1613 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a
1614 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned
1615 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1616 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1617 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1618 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
1619 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
1620 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
1621 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
1622 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
1623 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
1624 circumstances and time limits for which a public school or
1625 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute

1626 instructor.

1627 (9)~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the summer
1628 prekindergarten program must also register with the early
1629 learning coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office~~
1630 ~~of Early Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1631 Education Program in accordance with this part.

1632 (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
1633 each private prekindergarten provider and public school
1634 delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1635 within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies
1636 with this part.

1637 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1638 fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in
1639 misconduct, the department shall require the early learning
1640 coalition to remove the provider or school from eligibility to
1641 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
1642 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2
1643 years but no more than 5 years.

1644 Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and
1645 subsections (6) and (8) of section 1002.63, Florida Statutes,
1646 are amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to
1647 read:

1648 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
1649 public schools.—

1650 (3)

1651 (b) Each public school delivering the school-year
 1652 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
 1653 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the
 1654 school district may execute a single agreement with the early
 1655 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1656 (6) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a
 1657 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
 1658 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
 1659 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
 1660 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
 1661 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
 1662 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
 1663 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
 1664 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
 1665 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
 1666 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
 1667 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
 1668 circumstances and time limits for which a public school
 1669 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

1670 (8) Each public school delivering the school-year
 1671 prekindergarten program must register with the early learning
 1672 coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~
 1673 ~~Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1674 Program in accordance with this part.

1675 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that

1676 each public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1677 Education Program within the coalition's service area complies
 1678 with this part.

1679 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with
 1680 this part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require
 1681 the early learning coalition to remove the school from
 1682 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1683 Program and receive state funds under this part for a period of
 1684 at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1685 Section 40. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1686 to read:

1687 1002.67 Performance standards and; ~~curricula and~~
 1688 ~~accountability.~~—

1689 (1) (a) The department ~~office~~ shall develop and adopt
 1690 performance standards for students in the Voluntary
 1691 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards
 1692 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the
 1693 development of:

- 1694 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under
- 1695 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~
- 1696 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,
- 1697 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological
- 1698 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and
- 1699 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.

1700

1701 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~
1702 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~
1703 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~
1704 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

1705 (b) At least every 3 years, the department ~~office~~ shall
1706 ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the performance
1707 standards established under s. 1002.67 ~~for the statewide~~
1708 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align
1709 the standards to the standards established by the state board
1710 for student performance on the statewide assessments
1711 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

1712 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
1713 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or
1714 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1715 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school
1716 that is placed on probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4) (c).~~

1717 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1718 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
1719 must:

1720 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and
1721 provide for instruction in early math skills;

1722 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in
1723 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
1724 under subsection (1); and

1725 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated

1726 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening
1727 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 Prepare
1728 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~
1729 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

1730 (c) The department office shall adopt procedures for the
1731 review and approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private
1732 prekindergarten providers and public schools that are placed on
1733 probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~. The department
1734 ~~office~~ shall administer the review and approval process and
1735 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.
1736 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph
1737 (b).

1738 ~~(3)(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~
1739 ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~
1740 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~
1741 ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~
1742 ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

1743 ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~
1744 ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~
1745 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~
1746 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

1747 ~~(c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by~~
1748 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~
1749 ~~State Board of Education.~~

1750 ~~(4)(a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~

1751 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~
1752 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~
1753 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~
1754 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~
1755 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

1756 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1757 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~
1758 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~
1759 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~
1760 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~
1761 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~
1762 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

1763 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~
1764 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~
1765 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1766 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~
1767 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~
1768 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~
1769 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~
1770 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~
1771 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~
1772 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~
1773 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~
1774 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~
1775 ~~office.~~

1776 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1777 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~
1778 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~
1779 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~
1780 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~
1781 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~
1782 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~
1783 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~
1784 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~
1785 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
1786 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

1787 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1788 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~
1789 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1790 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~
1791 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~
1792 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~
1793 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~
1794 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~
1795 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

1796 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~
1797 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~
1798 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~
1799 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~
1800 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~

1801 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~
1802 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~
1803 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

1804 Section 41. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created
1805 to read:

1806 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1807 accountability.—

1808 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each
1809 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating
1810 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must
1811 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
1812 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated
1813 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used
1814 by the department to identify student learning gains, index
1815 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative
1816 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and
1817 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten
1818 provider's and public school's performance metric.

1819 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress
1820 monitoring or screening must be administered by individuals
1821 meeting requirements adopted by the department under s.
1822 1008.2125.

1823 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
1824 school must provide a student's performance results from the
1825 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's

1826 parents within 7 days after the administration of such
1827 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

1828 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each
1829 private prekindergarten provider and public school in the
1830 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in
1831 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education
1832 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of
1833 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,
1834 classroom organization, and instructional support for children
1835 ages 3 to 5 years. Each private prekindergarten provider and
1836 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1837 shall receive from the department the results of the program
1838 assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the
1839 observation. Each early learning coalition shall be responsible
1840 for the administration of the program assessments which must be
1841 conducted by individuals qualified to conduct program
1842 assessments under s. 1002.82(2)(n).

1843 (3)(a) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department
1844 shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private
1845 prekindergarten provider and public school in the Voluntary
1846 Prekindergarten Education Program based upon learning gains and
1847 the percentage of students who are assessed as ready for
1848 kindergarten. The department shall require that each school
1849 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use
1850 before the 2021-2022 school year to each kindergarten student in

1851 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-
1852 2022 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide
1853 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private
1854 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1855 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a
1856 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results
1857 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2021-
1858 2022 program year. Any private prekindergarten provider or
1859 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1860 which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for
1861 the 2020-2021 program year is subject to the probation
1862 requirements of subsection (5).

1863 (b) For the 2022-2023 program year, the department shall
1864 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider
1865 based on the program assessment under subsection (2).

1866 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, the
1867 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each
1868 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's
1869 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the
1870 following:

1871 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection
1872 (3), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1873 2. Learning gains operationalized as change in ability
1874 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results
1875 described in subsection (1).

1876 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes
1877 described in subsection (1).

1878 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's
1879 performance metric may only include prekindergarten students who
1880 have attended at least 85 percent of a private prekindergarten
1881 provider's or public school's program.

1882 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance
1883 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or
1884 public school site.

1885 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent
1886 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent
1887 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early
1888 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability
1889 systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a
1890 limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the
1891 profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following
1892 designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency,"
1893 "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable
1894 terminology determined by the State Board of Education which may
1895 not include letter grades. The independent expert may not be a
1896 direct stakeholder or have had a financial interest in the
1897 design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1898 Program or public school system within the last 5 years.

1899 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall
1900 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten

1901 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.
1902 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15
1903 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent
1904 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program
1905 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or
1906 public school may not receive a differential payment if it
1907 receives a designation of proficient or lower. Before the
1908 adoption of the methodology, the department and the independent
1909 expert shall confer with the Council for Early Grade Success
1910 under s. 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the State
1911 Board of Education for the final recommendations on the
1912 designation system and differential payments.

1913 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually
1914 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1915 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in
1916 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph
1917 (d). Beginning with the 2023-2024 program year, each private
1918 prekindergarten provider or public school shall be assigned a
1919 designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-
1920 year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by
1921 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public
1922 schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the summer
1923 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by all
1924 participating private prekindergarten providers or public
1925 schools.

1926 (g) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1927 that is designated proficient, highly proficient, or excellent
1928 demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of
1929 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1930 (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early
1931 learning provider performance profiles required under s.
1932 1002.92 (3) .

1933 (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten
1934 provider's program assessment composite score for its
1935 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program
1936 assessment composite score for contracting established by the
1937 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2) (n), the private
1938 prekindergarten provider or public school may not participate in
1939 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the
1940 consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school
1941 or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite
1942 score for contracting. A public school or private
1943 prekindergarten provider may request one program assessment per
1944 program year in order to requalify for participation in the
1945 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, provided that the
1946 public school or private prekindergarten provider is not
1947 excluded from participation under ss. 1002.55(6),
1948 1002.61(10) (b), 1002.63(9) (b), or paragraph (5) (b) of this
1949 section. If a public school or private prekindergarten provider
1950 would like an additional program assessment completed within the

1951 same program year the public school or private prekindergarten
1952 provider shall be responsible for the cost of the program
1953 assessment.

1954 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public
1955 school's performance metric or designation falls below the
1956 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning
1957 coalition shall:

1958 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval
1959 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and
1960 implement the plan.

1961 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1962 3. Require the provider or school to take certain
1963 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved
1964 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development
1965 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional
1966 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,
1967 instructional support, language development, phonological
1968 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

1969 (c) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1970 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
1971 required under paragraph (b) until the provider or school meets
1972 the minimum performance metric or designation adopted by the
1973 department. Failure to meet the requirements of subparagraphs
1974 (b)1. and 3. shall result in the termination of the provider's
1975 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten

1976 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more
 1977 than 5 years.

1978 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
 1979 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
 1980 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted
 1981 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall
 1982 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's or
 1983 school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1984 Education Program and receive state funds for the program for a
 1985 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1986 (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private
 1987 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
 1988 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently
 1989 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and
 1990 for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an
 1991 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the
 1992 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
 1993 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,
 1994 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or
 1995 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

1996 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public
 1997 school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such
 1998 an exemption, must be submitted to the department in the manner
 1999 and within the timeframes prescribed by the department and must
 2000 include the following:

2001 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or
 2002 public school which documents the achievement and progress of
 2003 the children served, as measured by any required screenings or
 2004 assessments.

2005 2. Data from the program assessment required under
 2006 subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices
 2007 as recognized by the tool developer.

2008 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district
 2009 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and
 2010 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting
 2011 association, as applicable, relating to the private
 2012 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with
 2013 state and local health and safety standards.

2014 (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good
 2015 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not
 2016 limited to, all of the following:

2017 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private
 2018 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically
 2019 significant population of children with special needs who have
 2020 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward
 2021 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education
 2022 plans.

2023 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary
 2024 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten
 2025 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has

2026 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening
2027 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

2028 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which
2029 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the
2030 tool developer.

2031 4. Verification that local and state health and safety
2032 requirements are met.

2033 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any
2034 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any
2035 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as
2036 defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families,
2037 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request
2038 for the exemption.

2039 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
2040 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its
2041 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required
2042 under subsection (5) (b) until the provider or school meets the
2043 minimum performance metric.

2044 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private
2045 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
2046 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all
2047 other applicable requirements of this part, the department shall
2048 notify the early learning coalition of the good cause exemption
2049 and direct that the early learning coalition not remove the
2050 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary

2051 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for
 2052 the program.

2053 (g) The department shall report the number of private
 2054 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a
 2055 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part
 2056 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(7).

2057 (7) Representatives from each school district and
 2058 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to
 2059 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary
 2060 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

2061 Section 42. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is
 2062 repealed.

2063 Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection
 2064 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of
 2065 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida
 2066 Statutes, are amended to read:

2067 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

2068 (3)

2069 (c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated
 2070 student enrollment in each coalition service area. The
 2071 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall reallocate funds among
 2072 the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student
 2073 enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall
 2074 report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a
 2075 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal

2076 | year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent
2077 | fiscal year.

2078 | (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

2079 | (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs
2080 | listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent
2081 | of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under
2082 | subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the
2083 | funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw
2084 | from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the
2085 | programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of
2086 | the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time
2087 | equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and
2088 | reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued
2089 | in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~
2090 | uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

2091 | (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the
2092 | prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw
2093 | from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the
2094 | child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer
2095 | programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time
2096 | equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is
2097 | reenrolled.

2098 |
2099 | A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program
2100 | under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten

2101 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from
2102 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good
2103 cause exemption under this subsection. The department ~~Office of~~
2104 ~~Early Learning~~ shall establish criteria specifying whether a
2105 good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under
2106 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a
2107 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship
2108 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under
2109 paragraph (b).

2110 (5)

2111 (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt
2112 procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers
2113 and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2114 Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance
2115 payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment
2116 in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the
2117 reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the
2118 uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The
2119 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds
2120 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning
2121 coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private
2122 prekindergarten providers and public schools.

2123 (6)

2124 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district
2125 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each

2126 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
 2127 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
 2128 month's certified student attendance.

2129 2. The parent must submit the verification of the
 2130 student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or
 2131 public school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of~~
 2132 ~~Early Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the
 2133 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in
 2134 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to
 2135 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in
 2136 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the
 2137 program be made to the provider or school:

2138 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
 2139 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

2140 I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,
 2141 ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2142 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I
 2143 continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver
 2144 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid
 2145 to the provider or school for my child.

2146 ...(Signature of Parent)...

2147 ...(Date)...

2148 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school
 2149 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each
 2150 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning

2151 coalition, and each public school must permit the school
2152 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal
2153 business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
2154 adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school
2155 districts to review the original signed forms against the
2156 certified student attendance. The review procedures shall
2157 provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,
2158 including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early
2159 learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the
2160 review procedures.

2161 (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,
2162 for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the
2163 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance
2164 policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private
2165 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance
2166 policy must include at least the following provisions:

2167 1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata
2168 basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

2169 2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on
2170 behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a
2171 public school may be for hours a student is absent.

2172 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school may
2173 not receive payment for absences that occur before a student's
2174 first day of attendance or after a student's last day of
2175 attendance.

2176
2177 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding
2178 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten
2179 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its
2180 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

2181 (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require
2182 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum
2183 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
2184 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative
2185 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent
2186 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic
2187 submission of forms, including those required for child
2188 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and
2189 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school
2190 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system
2191 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early
2192 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In
2193 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate
2194 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative
2195 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend
2196 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to
2197 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under
2198 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition
2199 under this subsection may be used only for administering the
2200 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used

2201 for the school readiness program or other programs.

2202 Section 44. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida
 2203 Statutes, is amended to read:

2204 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary
 2205 Prekindergarten Education Program.—

2206 (1) (a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary
 2207 Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning
 2208 coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a
 2209 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are
 2210 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
 2211 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such
 2212 records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
 2213 observations, and personal identifying information of an
 2214 enrolled child and his or her parent.

2215 (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child
 2216 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held
 2217 by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early~~
 2218 ~~Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2219 provider before, on, or after the effective date of this
 2220 exemption.

2221 Section 45. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2222 to read:

2223 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;
 2224 accountability requirements.—

2225 (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard

2226 statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary
2227 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized
2228 attachments by provider type. The department shall publish a
2229 copy of the standard statewide provider contract on its website.
2230 The standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a
2231 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for
2232 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a
2233 provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the
2234 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide
2235 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process
2236 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,
2237 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any
2238 provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or
2239 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~
2240 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
2241 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

2242 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:

2243 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials
2244 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

2245 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early
2246 mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and
2247 1002.59.

2248 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers
2249 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the
2250 minimum performance metric or designation as required by s.

2251 1002.68 of the high-quality professional development
2252 opportunities developed or supported by the department.

2253 (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2254 Education Program by the early learning coalitions, including,
2255 but not limited to, procedures for:

2256 1. Enrolling students in and determining the eligibility
2257 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2258 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children
2259 by public schools and private providers that meet specified
2260 requirements.

2261 2. Providing parents with profiles of private
2262 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

2263 3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and
2264 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,
2265 1002.61, and 1002.63.

2266 4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten
2267 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61
2268 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility
2269 whenever possible.

2270 5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten
2271 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools
2272 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or
2273 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2274 6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public
2275 schools under s. 1002.71.

2276 7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and
 2277 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

2278 8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the
 2279 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2280 9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private
 2281 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with
 2282 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.
 2283 1002.71.

2284 (3) The department shall administer the accountability
 2285 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2286 at the state level.

2287 (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the
 2288 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2289 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

2290 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten
 2291 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2292 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public
 2293 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.
 2294 1002.68.

2295 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public
 2296 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the
 2297 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time
 2298 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a
 2299 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
 2300 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program

2301 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
2302 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the
2303 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2304 Education Program.

2305 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
2306 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2307 under s. 1002.66.

2308 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers
2309 under s. 1002.66.

2310 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~
2311 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~
2312 ~~1002.69.~~

2313 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~
2314 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
2315 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
2316 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~
2317 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
2318 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
2319 ~~department.~~

2320 (f)(e) Approving Approval of specialized instructional
2321 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2322 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~
2323 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2324 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or
2325 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.

2326 | 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.69(7)~~.

2327 | (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the
 2328 | distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.
 2329 | 1002.71.

2330 | (6)~~(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the department may not
 2331 | impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or
 2332 | public school that does not deliver the Voluntary
 2333 | Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under
 2334 | this part.

2335 | Section 46. Sections 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is
 2336 | repealed.

2337 | Section 47. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2338 | to read:

2339 | 1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education
 2340 | ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)
 2341 | and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring
 2342 | duties upon the department ~~office~~.

2343 | Section 48. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2344 | to read:

2345 | 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of
 2346 | 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2347 | (1) "At-risk child" means:

2348 | (a) A child from a family under investigation by the
 2349 | Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's
 2350 | office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2351 (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the
 2352 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider
 2353 and who is from a family that is actively participating and
 2354 complying in department-prescribed activities, including
 2355 education, health services, or work.

2356 (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the
 2357 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service
 2358 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2359 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or
 2360 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after
 2361 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and
 2362 Families or its contracted provider.

2363 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a
 2364 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a
 2365 certified domestic violence center.

2366 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered
 2367 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families
 2368 certified homeless shelter.

2369 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care
 2370 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,
 2371 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,
 2372 including reasonable travel time.

2373 (3) "Department" means the Department of Education.

2374 (4) "Direct enhancement services" means services for
 2375 families and children that are in addition to payments for the

2376 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct
 2377 enhancement services for families and children may include
 2378 supports for providers, parent training and involvement
 2379 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique
 2380 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement
 2381 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be
 2382 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
 2383 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2384 (5) "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary or
 2385 permanent, of a child from participation in the school readiness
 2386 program. Removal of a child from the school readiness program
 2387 may be based on the following events: a reduction in available
 2388 school readiness program funding, participant's failure to meet
 2389 eligibility or program participation requirements, fraud, or a
 2390 change in local service priorities.

2391 (6) "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived from
 2392 work, professional service, or self-employment. The term
 2393 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash
 2394 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

2395 (7) "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family
 2396 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty
 2397 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family
 2398 as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural
 2399 worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer
 2400 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according

2401 to weather conditions and market stability.

2402 (8) "Family income" means the combined gross income,
 2403 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by
 2404 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older
 2405 who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.
 2406 The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled
 2407 high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or
 2408 a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22
 2409 years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high
 2410 school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special
 2411 diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also
 2412 does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing
 2413 assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the
 2414 associated utilities expenses.

2415 (9) "Family or household members" means spouses, former
 2416 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are
 2417 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have
 2418 been married, and other persons who are currently residing
 2419 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

2420 (10) "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not more
 2421 than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education
 2422 services within a 24-hour period.

2423 (11) "Market rate" means the price that a child care or
 2424 early childhood education provider charges for full-time or
 2425 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early

2426 childhood education services.

2427 ~~(12) "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the~~
2428 ~~Department of Education.~~

2429 ~~(12)~~~~(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child
2430 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour
2431 period.

2432 ~~(13)~~~~(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the
2433 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency
2434 distribution ~~average~~ of the market rate by program care level
2435 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which
2436 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

2437 (14) "Single point of entry" means an integrated
2438 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her
2439 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary
2440 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations
2441 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or
2442 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a
2443 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for
2444 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2445 (15) "Unearned income" means income other than earned
2446 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- 2447 (a) Documented alimony and child support received.
2448 (b) Social security benefits.
2449 (c) Supplemental security income benefits.
2450 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.

2451 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation
 2452 benefits.

2453 (f) Veterans' benefits.

2454 (g) Retirement benefits.

2455 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.

2456 (16) "Working family" means:

2457 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom
 2458 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2459 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;

2460 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom
 2461 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2462 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours
 2463 per week; or

2464 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with
 2465 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to
 2466 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician
 2467 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is
 2468 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at
 2469 least 20 hours per week.

2470 Section 49. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2471 to read:

2472 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;
 2473 powers and duties.—

2474 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and
 2475 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts

2476 98 and 99, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ is designated
2477 as the lead agency and must comply with lead agency
2478 responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department ~~office~~
2479 may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of, and the
2480 Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss. 411.223 and
2481 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for implementation of the
2482 school readiness program. Section 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply
2483 to the school readiness program.

2484 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2485 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered
2486 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

2487 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to
2488 choose from a variety of child care categories, including
2489 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to
2490 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development
2491 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health
2492 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and
2493 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or
2494 excluded in any of these categories.

2495 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and
2496 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual
2497 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,
2498 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of
2499 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,
2500 including:

2501 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for
 2502 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides
 2503 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,
 2504 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.
 2505 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

- 2506 a. Direct services to children.
- 2507 b. Administrative costs.
- 2508 c. Quality activities.
- 2509 d. Nondirect services.

2510 2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to
 2511 perform data matches on children participating in the school
 2512 readiness program and their families in order to verify the
 2513 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2514 (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of
 2515 the prevailing average market rate or an alternative model that
 2516 has been approved by the Administration for Children and
 2517 Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c).

2518 (e) Review each early learning coalition's school
 2519 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval
 2520 of the plan and any amendments submitted.

2521 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to
 2522 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of
 2523 this effort, the department office:

2524 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that
 2525 address the state's school readiness program, including:

2526 a. Statewide data information program requirements that
 2527 include:
 2528 (I) Eligibility requirements.
 2529 (II) Financial reports.
 2530 (III) Program accountability measures.
 2531 (IV) Child progress reports.
 2532 b. Child care resource and referral services.
 2533 c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.
 2534 2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on
 2535 additional support services to complement the school readiness
 2536 program, including:
 2537 ~~a. Rating and improvement systems.~~
 2538 a.b. Warm-Line services.
 2539 ~~b.e.~~ Anti-fraud plans.
 2540 ~~d. School readiness program standards.~~
 2541 ~~e. Child screening and assessments.~~
 2542 c.f. Training and support for parental involvement in
 2543 children's early education.
 2544 ~~d.g.~~ Family literacy activities and services.
 2545 (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning
 2546 coalitions.
 2547 (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,
 2548 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the
 2549 Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to
 2550 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety

2551 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child
 2552 care training and credentialing.

2553 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local
 2554 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of
 2555 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of
 2556 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify
 2557 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist
 2558 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a
 2559 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for
 2560 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety
 2561 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the
 2562 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A
 2563 child development program that is accredited by a national
 2564 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is
 2565 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted
 2566 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2567 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the Develop
 2568 ~~and adopt~~ standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the
 2569 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children
 2570 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for
 2571 children from birth to kindergarten entry ~~5 years of age~~ in the
 2572 school readiness program must be aligned with the performance
 2573 standards adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2574 Education Program and must address the following domains:

2575 1. Approaches to learning.

- 2576 | 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 2577 | 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 2578 | 4. Physical development.
- 2579 | 5. Self-regulation.
- 2580 | (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are
- 2581 | valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at
- 2582 | least three times a year. The assessments must:
- 2583 | 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~riterion-~~
- 2584 | ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across
- 2585 | the core domains of early childhood development and that can be
- 2586 | used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.
- 2587 | 2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted
- 2588 | pursuant to paragraph (j).
- 2589 | 3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children
- 2590 | with disabilities and English language learners and be
- 2591 | administered by qualified individuals, consistent with the
- 2592 | developer's instructions.
- 2593 | 4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by
- 2594 | the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary
- 2595 | Prekindergarten Education Program.
- 2596 | 5. Provide data in a format for use in the single
- 2597 | statewide information system to meet the requirements of
- 2598 | paragraph (q) ~~(p)~~.
- 2599 | (1) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the
- 2600 | performance standards for the school readiness program and

2601 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's
2602 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

2603 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning
2604 coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard
2605 statewide provider contract adopted by the department to be used
2606 with each school readiness program provider, with standardized
2607 attachments by provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall
2608 publish a copy of the standard statewide provider contract on
2609 its website. The standard statewide contract shall include, at a
2610 minimum, contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the
2611 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R.
2612 parts 98 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable;
2613 program assessment requirements; and provisions for provider
2614 probation, termination for cause, and emergency termination for
2615 those actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate
2616 and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the
2617 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also
2618 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency
2619 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to
2620 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that
2621 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and
2622 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also
2623 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established
2624 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the
2625 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting

2626 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)
2627 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to
2628 paragraph (n).

2629 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness
2630 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child
2631 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,
2632 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and
2633 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The
2634 implementation of the program assessment must ~~also~~ include the
2635 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of
2636 Education:

2637 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program
2638 assessment composite score threshold for contracting purposes
2639 and program improvement through an improvement plan. The minimum
2640 program assessment composite score required for the Voluntary
2641 Prekindergarten Education Program contracting threshold must be
2642 the same as the minimum program assessment composite score
2643 required for contracting for the school readiness program. The
2644 methodology for the calculation of the minimum program
2645 assessment composite score shall be reviewed by the independent
2646 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

2647 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of
2648 program assessment, and exemptions.

2649 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential
2650 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the

2651 department office under paragraph (n). The differential payment
2652 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and
2653 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5
2654 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to
2655 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide
2656 information system in the domains of language and executive
2657 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to
2658 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum program assessment
2659 score adopted threshold for contracting purposes are ineligible
2660 for such payment.

2661 (p) No later than July 1, 2022, develop and adopt
2662 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to
2663 make available contracted slots to serve children at the
2664 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children
2665 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty
2666 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted
2667 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of
2668 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.
2669 1002.85(2)(j).

2670 (q) ~~(p)~~ Establish a single statewide information system
2671 that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the
2672 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,
2673 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining
2674 eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and
2675 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early

2676 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.
2677 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

2678 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her
2679 child as the child moves among programs within the state.

2680 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level
2681 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality
2682 improvement and investment decisions.

2683 (r)-(q) Provide technical support to coalitions to
2684 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures
2685 adopted in state board rule for early learning coalitions to use
2686 when monitoring the compliance of school readiness program
2687 providers with the terms of the standard statewide provider
2688 contract.

2689 (s)-(r) At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic
2690 monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early
2691 learning coalition in administering the school readiness
2692 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program
2693 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program
2694 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2695 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must
2696 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's
2697 finances, management, operations, and programs.

2698 (t)-(s) Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal
2699 Education Programs within the department ~~of Education~~ to
2700 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to

2701 the populations served by the bureau.

2702 (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to
2703 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and
2704 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,
2705 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
2706 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
2707 special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2708 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day
2709 care homes of the availability of this service through the child
2710 care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2711 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line
2712 to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning
2713 coalition service area.

2714 (v)~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the
2715 supply and improve the quality of child care services for
2716 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who
2717 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in
2718 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant
2719 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

2720 (w)~~(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training
2721 requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child
2722 development standards, health and safety requirements, and
2723 social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include
2724 positive behavior intervention and support models, including the
2725 integration of early learning professional development pathways

2726 | established in s. 1002.995.

2727 | ~~(x)(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness

2728 | plans for school readiness program providers.

2729 | ~~(y)(*)~~ Establish group sizes.

2730 | ~~(z)(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not

2731 | exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.

2732 | 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program

2733 | providers.

2734 | ~~(aa)(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including

2735 | limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance

2736 | with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2737 | (3)(a) The department shall adopt performance standards

2738 | and outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a

2739 | minimum, include the development of objective and statistically

2740 | valid customer service surveys by a state university of other

2741 | independent researcher with specific expertise in customer

2742 | service survey development. The survey shall be deployed

2743 | beginning in fiscal year 2022-2023 and be distributed to:

2744 | 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the

2745 | completion of a referral inquiry.

2746 | 2. Parents, annually, at the time of eligibility

2747 | determination.

2748 | 3. Child care providers that participate in the school

2749 | readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

2750 | Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider

2751 contract.

2752 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

2753 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a

2754 statistically significant sample size of completed surveys and

2755 calculated annually for each early learning coalition and

2756 included in the department's annual report under subsection (7).

2757 If an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction survey

2758 results are below 60 percent, the coalition shall be placed on a

2759 1-year corrective action plan that outlines the specific steps

2760 the coalition shall take to improve the results of the customer

2761 service surveys, including, but not limited to, technical

2762 assistance, staff professional development, or coaching. If,

2763 after being placed on corrective action, an early learning

2764 coalition's customer satisfaction survey results do not improve

2765 above the 60 percent threshold, the department may contract out

2766 or merge the coalition.

2767 (4)(3) If the ~~department~~ office determines during the

2768 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring

2769 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an

2770 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its

2771 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and

2772 outcome measures adopted by the ~~department~~ or the terms of a

2773 customer service corrective action plan ~~office~~, or has not

2774 effectively administered the school readiness program or

2775 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the ~~department~~

2776 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer
2777 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a
2778 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and
2779 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
2780 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or
2781 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is
2782 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board
2783 ~~office~~.

2784 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for merging
2785 early learning coalitions for failure to meet the requirements
2786 of subsection (3) or subsection (4), including procedures for
2787 the consolidation of merging coalitions that minimizes
2788 duplication of programs and services due to the merger, and for
2789 the early termination of the terms of the coalition members
2790 which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2791 (6) ~~(4)~~ The department ~~office~~ may request the Governor to
2792 apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head
2793 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness
2794 program.

2795 (7) ~~(5)~~ By January 1 of each year, the department ~~office~~
2796 shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities
2797 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary
2798 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the
2799 following:

2800 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout

2801 the state, including the school readiness program and the
 2802 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2803 1. The total and average number of children served in the
 2804 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility
 2805 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of
 2806 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2807 Program.

2808 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,
 2809 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of
 2810 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,
 2811 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2812 3. A description of the department's ~~office's~~ and each
 2813 coalition's expenditures by fund source for the quality and
 2814 enhancement activities described in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
 2815 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2816 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to
 2817 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2818 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early
 2819 learning programs.

2820 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and
 2821 the reason for disenrollment.

2822 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2823 8. The number of school readiness program providers who
 2824 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph
 2825 (2)(n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum

2826 program assessment composite score ~~threshold~~ for contracting
2827 established under paragraph (2)(n); and the number of providers
2828 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the
2829 program assessment under paragraph (2)(n).

2830 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the
2831 reasons for revocation.

2832 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the
2833 single statewide information system established in subsection
2834 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child
2835 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2836 (8)(a) ~~(6)(a)~~ Parental choice of child care providers,
2837 including private and faith-based providers, shall be
2838 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with
2839 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2840 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment
2841 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45
2842 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

2843 (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with
2844 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment
2845 certificate that provides, to the maximum extent possible,
2846 flexibility in the school readiness program and payment
2847 arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the
2848 beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must
2849 bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized
2850 representative of the provider.

2851 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash
2852 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for
2853 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or
2854 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of
2855 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2856 (9)~~(7)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does
2857 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,
2858 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional
2859 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the
2860 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

2861 Section 50. Subsections (5) through (14) of section
2862 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)
2863 through (15), respectively, subsections (1) and (3), paragraphs
2864 (e), (f), and (m) of subsection (4), and present subsections
2865 (5), (11), and (13) are amended, and a new subsection (5) is
2866 added to that section, to read:

2867 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2868 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions
2869 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services
2870 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67
2871 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for
2872 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program
2873 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2874 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
2875 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the

2876 ~~same~~ qualifications of a ~~as~~ private sector business member
 2877 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (6) ~~(5)~~. In
 2878 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of
 2879 Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early
 2880 learning coalition board membership.

2881 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the
 2882 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
 2883 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
 2884 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
 2885 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
 2886 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of
 2887 such members may serve as a voting member:

2888 (e) A children's services council or juvenile welfare
 2889 board chair or executive director from each county, if
 2890 applicable.

2891 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care
 2892 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing
 2893 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

2894 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2895 (5) If members of the board are found to be
 2896 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition
 2897 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate
 2898 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership
 2899 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

2900 (6) ~~(5)~~ The early learning coalition may appoint additional

2901 ~~Including the members who appointed by the Governor under~~
2902 ~~subsection (3), more than one third of the members of each early~~
2903 ~~learning coalition~~ must be private sector business members,
2904 either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of
2905 whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial
2906 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
2907 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this
2908 chapter or the school readiness program. ~~To meet this~~
2909 ~~requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional~~
2910 ~~members.~~ The department office shall establish criteria for
2911 appointing private sector business members. These criteria must
2912 include standards for determining whether a member or relative
2913 has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery
2914 of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school
2915 readiness program.

2916 (12) ~~(11)~~ Each early learning coalition shall establish
2917 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must
2918 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4
2919 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~
2920 ~~pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may serve a maximum of
2921 two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed
2922 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

2923 (14) ~~(13)~~ Each early learning coalition shall complete an
2924 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive
2925 director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the

2926 | department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the
 2927 | commissioner by August 30 of each year. ~~use a coordinated~~
 2928 | ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~
 2929 | ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~
 2930 | ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~
 2931 | ~~adopted by the office.~~

2932 | Section 51. Subsections (7) through (20) of section
 2933 | 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)
 2934 | through (21), respectively, subsections (1), (2), and (4) and
 2935 | present subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20)
 2936 | of that section are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added
 2937 | to that section, to read:

2938 | 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
 2939 | and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2940 | (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program
 2941 | of school readiness program services in accordance with this
 2942 | part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which
 2943 | enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of
 2944 | children to achieve the performance standards.

2945 | (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible
 2946 | children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program
 2947 | in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education
 2948 | ~~office~~.

2949 | (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the
 2950 | department ~~office~~ pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.

2951 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical
2952 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and
2953 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,
2954 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care
2955 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve
2956 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2957 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that
2958 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by
2959 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the
2960 performance standards adopted by the department.

2961 (8)~~(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87
2962 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child
2963 eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must
2964 document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school
2965 readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by
2966 the department ~~office~~.

2967 (9)~~(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides
2968 for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families
2969 receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~
2970 ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~
2971 ~~a case-by-case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child
2972 or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's
2973 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose
2974 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits
2975 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in

2976 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency
 2977 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the
 2978 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in
 2979 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may
 2980 not transfer school readiness program services to another school
 2981 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted
 2982 documentation from the current school readiness program provider
 2983 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has
 2984 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2985 (16)~~(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in
 2986 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental
 2987 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.
 2988 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring
 2989 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to
 2990 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial
 2991 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local
 2992 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers
 2993 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored
 2994 biennially.

2995 (17)~~(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all
 2996 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The
 2997 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
 2998 ~~average~~ market rate or an alternative model that has been
 2999 approved by the Administration for Children and Families
 3000 pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 98.45(c), include the projected number of

3001 children to be served, and be submitted for approval by the
3002 department ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be
3003 reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a
3004 family day care home.

3005 (18)~~(17)~~ Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the
3006 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and
3007 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school
3008 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
3009 Program services and submit the plan to the department ~~office~~
3010 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

3011 (19)~~(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual
3012 report to the department ~~office~~. The report shall conform to the
3013 format adopted by the department ~~office~~ and must include:

3014 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,
3015 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~
3016 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds~~, and other local revenues
3017 available to the coalition.

3018 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including
3019 total expenditures for administrative activities, quality
3020 activities, nondirect services, and direct services for
3021 children.

3022 (c) The total number of coalition staff and the related
3023 expenditures for salaries and benefits. For any subcontracts,
3024 the total number of contracted staff and the related
3025 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

3026 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness
 3027 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility
 3028 priority category, reported as the number of children served
 3029 during the month, the average participation throughout the
 3030 month, and the number of children served during the month.

3031 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the
 3032 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

3033 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

3034 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by
 3035 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program
 3036 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or
 3037 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

3038 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

3039 (i) The total number of children served in each provider
 3040 facility.

3041 (21) (a) ~~(20)~~ To increase transparency and accountability,
 3042 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting
 3043 with one or more of the following persons or business entities
 3044 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned
 3045 by the following persons:

3046 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.
 3047 1002.83(3);

3048 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient
 3049 entity;

3050 3. A coalition employee; or

3051 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1)(c), of any
 3052 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~
 3053 ~~employee of the coalition.~~

3054 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the
 3055 approval of the department ~~office~~. Such contracts, as well as
 3056 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the
 3057 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the
 3058 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of
 3059 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who
 3060 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit
 3061 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under
 3062 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~
 3063 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~
 3064 ~~112.3143(1)(c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~
 3065 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the
 3066 department ~~office~~ but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of
 3067 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be
 3068 reported to the department ~~office~~ within 30 days after approval.
 3069 If a contract cannot be approved by the department ~~office~~, a
 3070 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be
 3071 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to
 3072 the disapproved contract.

3073 Section 52. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3074 to read:

3075 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

3076 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules prescribing
3077 the standardized format and required content of school readiness
3078 program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified
3079 entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in
3080 this part.

3081 (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a
3082 school readiness program plan to the department ~~office~~ before
3083 the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its
3084 school readiness program plan until it receives approval from
3085 the department ~~office~~. A coalition may not implement any
3086 revision to its school readiness program plan until the
3087 coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from
3088 the department ~~office~~. If the department ~~office~~ rejects a plan
3089 or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its
3090 previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not
3091 limited to:

3092 (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership
3093 and business organization, and the coalition's articles of
3094 incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a
3095 corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation
3096 or other business entity, the plan must include the contract
3097 with a fiscal agent.

3098 (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care
3099 level.

3100 (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the

3101 requirements of this part, including:

3102 1. Single point of entry.

3103 2. Uniform waiting list.

3104 3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local

3105 eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.

3106 4. Parent access and choice.

3107 5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver

3108 or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~

3109 ~~1002.84(8)~~.

3110 6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as

3111 applicable.

3112 7. Payment rate schedule.

3113 8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the

3114 results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).

3115 (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality

3116 activities and services, including, but not limited to:

3117 1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.

3118 2. Infant and toddler early learning.

3119 3. Inclusive early learning programs.

3120 4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching

3121 practices and increase child outcomes.

3122 (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures

3123 for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level

3124 of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all

3125 estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a

3126 listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted
3127 subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or
3128 hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan
3129 outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed
3130 capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

3131 (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the
3132 department ~~office~~, of all revenues and expenditures during the
3133 previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be
3134 identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~
3135 categories: state and federal funds and, ~~local matching funds,~~
3136 ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

3137 (g) Updated policies and procedures, including those
3138 governing procurement, maintenance of tangible personal
3139 property, maintenance of records, information technology
3140 security, and disbursement controls.

3141 (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school
3142 readiness program providers, including in response to a parental
3143 complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.
3144 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool
3145 adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to be
3146 high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial
3147 findings of violations of law shall be monitored more
3148 frequently.

3149 (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and
3150 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness

3151 program plan from the local community.

3152 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or
3153 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider
3154 capacity using available community data.

3155 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as
3156 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by
3157 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on
3158 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

3159 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the
3160 standardized format and required content of school readiness
3161 program plans on its website.

3162 (5) The department ~~office~~ shall collect and report data on
3163 coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall
3164 include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress
3165 towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the
3166 percentage of children served by the program as compared to the
3167 number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of
3168 children served compared to total number of children under the
3169 age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level,
3170 provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance
3171 and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and
3172 kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary
3173 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness
3174 program upon entry into kindergarten. The department ~~office~~
3175 shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness

3176 program providers before finalizing the format and data to be
 3177 used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,
 3178 and results of the report must be included in the annual report
 3179 under s. 1002.82.

3180 Section 53. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),
 3181 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section
 3182 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is
 3183 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

3184 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;
 3185 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

3186 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness
 3187 program, a school readiness program provider must:

3188 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a
 3189 family day care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a
 3190 large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a
 3191 public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s.
 3192 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from
 3193 licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school
 3194 program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child development
 3195 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and
 3196 operates on a military installation that is certified by the
 3197 United States Department of Defense, ~~or~~ an informal child care
 3198 provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and
 3199 Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States
 3200 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.

3201 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license
3202 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program
3203 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

3204 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-
3205 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child
3206 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant
3207 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to
3208 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an
3209 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with
3210 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to
3211 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and
3212 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

3213 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and
3214 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate
3215 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness
3216 program.

3217 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.
3218 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as
3219 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

3220 2. For a provider that is a registered family day care
3221 home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the
3222 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this
3223 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this
3224 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the
3225 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist

3226 adopted by the department ~~office~~ prominently on its premises in
3227 plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit
3228 the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

3229 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a
3230 national accrediting body and operates on a military
3231 installation that is certified by the United States Department
3232 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual
3233 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense
3234 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3235 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.
3236 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of
3237 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the
3238 department ~~office~~.

3239 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the
3240 department ~~office~~ that meets the child development standards.

3241 (m) For a provider that is not an informal provider,
3242 maintain general liability insurance and provide the coalition
3243 with written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
3244 including coverage for transportation of children if school
3245 readiness program children are transported by the provider. A
3246 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that
3247 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a
3248 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
3249 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
3250 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder

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

3257 (n) For a provider that is an informal provider, comply
3258 with the provisions of paragraph (m) or maintain homeowner's
3259 liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If an
3260 informal provider chooses to maintain a homeowner's policy, the
3261 provider must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy
3262 that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence
3263 and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The
3264 department ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as
3265 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a
3266 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An
3267 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of
3268 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or
3269 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by
3270 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the
3271 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.

3272 (p) Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a provider that is
3273 a state agency or a subdivision thereof, as defined in s.
3274 768.28(2), agree to notify the coalition of any additional
3275 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to

3276 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall
3277 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.
3278 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program
3279 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates
3280 on a military installation that is certified by the United
3281 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate
3282 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the
3283 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3284 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract
3285 adopted by the department ~~office~~.

3286 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has
3287 been granted under s. 1002.84(9).

3288 (3) The department ~~office~~ and the coalitions may not:

3289 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or
3290 early childhood education provider that does not deliver
3291 services under the school readiness program or receive state or
3292 federal funds under this part;

3293 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program
3294 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or
3295 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or
3296 part V of this chapter; or

3297 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or
3298 postassessment.

3299 Section 54. Subsections (3) through (7) of section
3300 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)

3301 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present
 3302 subsections (3) and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3303 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3304 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~
 3305 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~
 3306 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3307 (2)~~(3)~~ All instructions to early learning coalitions for
 3308 administering this section shall emanate from the department
 3309 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

3310 (5)~~(6)~~ Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for
 3311 the efficient and effective administration of the school
 3312 readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being
 3313 direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5
 3314 percent of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~
 3315 may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent
 3316 of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be
 3317 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative
 3318 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3319 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.
 3320 98.54 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.52~~, which shall include monitoring
 3321 providers using the standard methodology adopted under s.
 3322 1002.82 to improve compliance with state and federal regulations
 3323 and law pursuant to the requirements of the statewide provider
 3324 contract adopted under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3325 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as

3326 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.51~~, which shall
3327 be limited to the following:

3328 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and
3329 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related
3330 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents
3331 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified
3332 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

3333 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to
3334 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist
3335 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program
3336 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care
3337 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate
3338 curricula and related classroom resources that support
3339 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued
3340 professional development and training. Any grants awarded
3341 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and
3342 287.058.

3343 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial
3344 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and
3345 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child
3346 development research and best practices, developmentally
3347 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child
3348 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and
3349 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the
3350 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,

3351 prevention, and reporting.

3352 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
 3353 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
 3354 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
 3355 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for
 3356 infant and toddler care.

3357 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and
 3358 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as
 3359 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3360 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
 3361 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
 3362 to school readiness program children.

3363 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office
 3364 of Management and Budget instructions are those services not
 3365 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are
 3366 required to administer the school readiness program. Such
 3367 services include, but are not limited to:

3368 1. Assisting families to complete the required application
 3369 and eligibility documentation.

3370 2. Determining child and family eligibility.

3371 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.

3372 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.

3373 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care
 3374 information system.

3375

3376 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does
3377 not include payments to school readiness program providers for
3378 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.
3379 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or
3380 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3381 Section 55. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection
3382 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,
3383 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3384 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness
3385 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3386 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for
3387 the adoption of a market rate schedule until an alternative
3388 model that has been approved by the Administration for Children
3389 and Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c) is available for
3390 adoption. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-
3391 county rates:

3392 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum
3393 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality
3394 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting
3395 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
3396 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3397 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not
3398 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3399 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3400 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not

3401 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality
 3402 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its
 3403 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
 3404 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.
 3405 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure
 3406 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from
 3407 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal
 3408 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home
 3409 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed
 3410 or registered under s. 402.313.

3411 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an
 3412 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.
 3413 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
 3414 ~~average~~ market rate and ~~include~~ the projected number of
 3415 children to be served by each county ~~and~~ be submitted for
 3416 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care
 3417 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of
 3418 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3419 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more
 3420 qualified entities to administer this section and provide
 3421 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3422 (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing
 3423 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market
 3424 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by
 3425 program care level and provider type in a predetermined

3426 | geographic market, and the publication of the market rate
 3427 | schedule.

3428 | Section 56. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3429 | to read:

3430 | 1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;
 3431 | penalties.—

3432 | (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an
 3433 | intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a
 3434 | person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or
 3435 | misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that
 3436 | person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the
 3437 | commission of such an act. The term includes any act that
 3438 | constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3439 | (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,
 3440 | the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning
 3441 | coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness
 3442 | program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
 3443 | determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own
 3444 | inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~
 3445 | has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has
 3446 | engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall
 3447 | investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred
 3448 | due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the
 3449 | department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic
 3450 | benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who

3451 may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the
3452 disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits
3453 authorizations to recipients.

3454 (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the
3455 department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the
3456 investigation to the Department of Financial Services for
3457 criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable
3458 coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the
3459 department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of
3460 Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3461 (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a
3462 provider from participation in the school readiness program or
3463 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has
3464 reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed
3465 fraud. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt by rule appropriate due
3466 process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply
3467 in suspending or terminating any provider, including the
3468 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider
3469 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation
3470 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,
3471 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent
3472 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3473 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary
3474 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,
3475 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,

3476 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of
3477 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or
3478 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been
3479 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3480 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3481 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall
3482 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that
3483 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition
3484 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,
3485 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider
3486 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3487 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3488 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3489 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise
3490 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation
3491 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate
3492 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,
3493 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems
3494 appropriate.

3495 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a
3496 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten
3497 Education Program provider who is on the United States
3498 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In
3499 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that
3500 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the

3501 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified
 3502 List.

3503 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-
 3504 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of
 3505 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and
 3506 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary
 3507 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan
 3508 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~
 3509 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,
 3510 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud
 3511 plan must include, at a minimum:

3512 (a) A written description or chart outlining the
 3513 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are
 3514 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible
 3515 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3516 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting
 3517 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3518 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the
 3519 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to
 3520 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3521 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for
 3522 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent
 3523 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3524 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the
 3525 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department

3526 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness
3527 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a
3528 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes
3529 has committed fraud.

3530 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in
3531 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.
3532 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3533 Section 57. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),
3534 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida
3535 Statutes, are amended to read:

3536 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
3537 referral.—

3538 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the
3539 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care
3540 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides
3541 referrals to families for child care and information on
3542 available community resources. Preference shall be given to
3543 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and
3544 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply
3545 with the requirements to offer the resource information
3546 component or does not want to offer that service, the early
3547 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency
3548 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement
3549 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

3550 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency

3551 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or
3552 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3553 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral
3554 services offered through child care resource and referral
3555 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at
3556 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents
3557 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff
3558 training requirements.

3559 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall
3560 provide the following services:

3561 (a) Identification of existing public and private child
3562 care and early childhood education services, including child
3563 care services by public and private employers, and the
3564 development of an early learning provider performance profile ~~a~~
3565 ~~resource file~~ of those services through the single statewide
3566 information system developed by the department ~~office~~ under s.
3567 1002.82(2)(q) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services may include
3568 family day care, public and private child care programs, the
3569 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the
3570 school readiness program, special education programs for
3571 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for
3572 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-
3573 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and
3574 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~
3575 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The

3576 early learning provider performance profile ~~resource file~~ shall
 3577 include, but not be limited to:

- 3578 1. Type of program.
- 3579 2. Hours of service.
- 3580 3. Ages of children served.
- 3581 4. Number of children served.
- 3582 5. Program information.
- 3583 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 3584 7. Availability of transportation.
- 3585 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if
 3586 applicable.
- 3587 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
- 3588 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 3589 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68
 3590 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,
 3591 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,
 3592 if applicable.
- 3593 11. The school readiness program assessment composite
 3594 score and program assessment care level composite score results
 3595 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and
 3596 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.
- 3597 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,
 3598 if applicable.
- 3599 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a
 3600 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the

3601 curriculum, if applicable.

3602 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment
 3603 under s. 1002.82.

3604 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for
 3605 service tabulated through the internal referral process through
 3606 the single statewide information system. The following
 3607 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the
 3608 child care resource and referral network:

3609 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource
 3610 information and referral network component by type of service
 3611 requested.

3612 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3613 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3614 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and
 3615 swing shift.

3616 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3617 6. Customer service survey data required under s.

3618 1002.82(3) ~~Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~
 3619 ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

3620 (d) Assistance to families that connects them to parent
 3621 education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,
 3622 or social services programs that support families with children,
 3623 and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~
 3624 ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~
 3625 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

3626 1. ~~Information on initiating new child care services,~~
 3627 zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in
 3628 finding such information from other sources.

3629 2. ~~Information and resources which help existing child~~
 3630 care services providers to maximize their ability to serve
 3631 children and parents in their community.

3632 3. ~~Information and incentives that may help existing or~~
 3633 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~
 3634 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~
 3635 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~
 3636 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~
 3637 ~~businesses.~~

3638 Section 58. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida
 3639 Statutes, is amended to read:

3640 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

3641 (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning
 3642 coalition to establish school readiness program transportation
 3643 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are
 3644 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to
 3645 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the
 3646 provision of transportation services as required by this
 3647 section.

3648 Section 59. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is
 3649 repealed.

3650 Section 60. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended

3651 to read:

3652 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
3653 scholarship program.—

3654 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the
3655 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps
3656 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational
3657 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood
3658 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care
3659 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and
3660 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child
3661 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the
3662 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood
3663 education.

3664 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3665 as necessary to administer this section.

3666 Section 61. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,
3667 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3668 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

3669 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department
3670 ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants
3671 to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs
3672 through Early Head Start program federal grants. The
3673 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds
3674 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been
3675 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3676 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for
3677 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the
3678 administration of the collaboration grants program under this
3679 section.

3680 Section 62. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection
3681 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3682 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness
3683 program.—

3684 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the
3685 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an
3686 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are
3687 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
3688 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records
3689 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
3690 observations, and personal identifying information.

3691 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3692 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early
3693 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of
3694 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department
3695 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness
3696 program.

3697
3698 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school
3699 readiness program records in order to carry out their official
3700 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit

3701 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school
3702 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than
3703 those authorized to receive the records.

3704 Section 63. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,
3705 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3706 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards
3707 and career pathways.—

3708 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3709 (a) Develop early learning professional development
3710 training and course standards to be utilized for school
3711 readiness program providers.

3712 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning
3713 career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications
3714 that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized
3715 professional development that:

3716 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.

3717 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core
3718 competencies.

3719 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based
3720 stackable credentials and certifications.

3721 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten
3722 readiness and early grade success.

3723 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3724 to administer this section.

3725 Section 64. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended

3726 | to read:

3727 | 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of
 3728 | the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;
 3729 | Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

3730 | (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate
 3731 | articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20
 3732 | ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening
 3733 | relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,
 3734 | between public and private organizations, and between the
 3735 | education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The
 3736 | purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these
 3737 | relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective
 3738 | progression and transfer of students within the education system
 3739 | and to allow students to proceed toward their educational
 3740 | objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The
 3741 | Legislature further intends that articulation policies and
 3742 | budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of
 3743 | the Department of Education and postsecondary educational
 3744 | institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts
 3745 | of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3746 | (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the
 3747 | State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall
 3748 | collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from
 3749 | statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner
 3750 | of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System

3751 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The
 3752 policies shall relate to:

3753 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one
 3754 education system and the admissions requirements of another
 3755 education system into which students typically transfer.

3756 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of
 3757 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course
 3758 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such
 3759 institutions.

3760 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education
 3761 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public
 3762 postsecondary educational institutions.

3763 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3764 (e) Articulation agreements.

3765 (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
 3766 the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish
 3767 the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make
 3768 recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and
 3769 issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data
 3770 maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established
 3771 pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education
 3772 Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the
 3773 Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members
 3774 each representing the State University System, the Florida
 3775 College System, public career and technical education, K-12

3776 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member
3777 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the
3778 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
3779 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3780 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of
3781 one education system and the admissions requirements of another
3782 education system into which students typically transfer and make
3783 recommendations for improvement.

3784 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements
3785 between and among public schools, career and technical education
3786 centers, Florida College System institutions, state
3787 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3788 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high
3789 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State
3790 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3791 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement
3792 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3793 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,
3794 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit
3795 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions
3796 participating in the statewide course numbering system and
3797 identify instances of student transfer and admissions
3798 difficulties.

3799 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common
3800 general education and common degree program prerequisite

3801 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified
 3802 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3803 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide
 3804 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
 3805 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and
 3806 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,
 3807 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3808 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public
 3809 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide
 3810 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant
 3811 to s. 1006.735.

3812 Section 65. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is
 3813 created to read:

3814 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring
 3815 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 3816 Program through grade 3.—

3817 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and
 3818 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary
 3819 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide
 3820 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate
 3821 grade-level standards and to provide information on their
 3822 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program
 3823 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten
 3824 Education Program providers and school districts to improve
 3825 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning

3826 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and
3827 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,
3828 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure
3829 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress
3830 monitoring program must:

3831 (a) Measure student progress in the Voluntary
3832 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the
3833 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and
3834 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.
3835 1002.67(1) (a) and 1003.41.

3836 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary
3837 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3838 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each
3839 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on
3840 each kindergarten students progress monitoring results that was
3841 administered no later than the first 30 instructional days in
3842 accordance with paragraph (2) (a). The methodology for
3843 determining a student's readiness for kindergarten shall be
3844 developed by the same independent expert identified in s.
3845 1002.68(4) (d).

3846 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
3847 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3848 through grade 3.

3849 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to
3850 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.

3851 1008.25(4).

3852 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular
3853 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state
3854 levels.

3855 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and
3856 development of educational programs and policies, and supports
3857 for providers, schools, and districts.

3858 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a
3859 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress
3860 monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics
3861 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards
3862 established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, respectively. The
3863 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must
3864 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures
3865 equivalent levels of growth; be and adaptive and developmentally
3866 appropriate, valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to
3867 capture data on students who may be performing below grade or
3868 developmental level and which may enable the identification of
3869 early indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays;
3870 accurately measure the core content in the applicable grade
3871 level standards; document learning gains for the achievement of
3872 these standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring
3873 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction
3874 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated
3875 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all

3876 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
3877 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The
3878 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be
3879 implemented beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Voluntary
3880 Prekindergarten Education Program providers and public schools
3881 must participate in the screening and progress monitoring
3882 system, as follows:

3883 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3884 program shall be administered to students occurring no later
3885 than the first 30 instructional days of the program or school
3886 year, midyear, and within the last 30 instructional days of the
3887 program or school year, pursuant to state board rule. The state
3888 board may adopt alternate timeframes to address nontraditional
3889 school year calendars or summer programs to ensure
3890 administration of the coordinated screening and progress
3891 monitoring program is administered a minimum of 3 times within a
3892 year or program.

3893 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress
3894 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in
3895 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and
3896 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3897 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3898 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Council for
3899 Early Grade Success, for implementing the coordinated screening
3900 and progress monitoring program in consideration of timelines

3901 for implementing new early literacy and mathematics skills and
3902 the English Language Arts and mathematics standards established
3903 in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3904 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to
3905 the Council for Early Grade Success.

3906 (4) The Council for Early Grade Success, a council defined
3907 in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of Education to
3908 oversee the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3909 program and, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall
3910 operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3911 (a) The council shall be responsible for reviewing the
3912 implementation of, training for, administration of, and outcomes
3913 from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program
3914 to provide recommendations to the department that supports grade
3915 3 students reading at or above grade level. The council, at a
3916 minimum, shall:

3917 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the
3918 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including
3919 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria
3920 before being published.

3921 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

3922 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and
3923 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated
3924 screening and progress monitoring program.

3925 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a

3926 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under
3927 s. 1002.68.

3928 5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.
3929 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a
3930 child's kindergarten readiness.

3931 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade
3932 level that a student would need to attain in order to
3933 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

3934 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of
3935 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for
3936 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3937 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department
3938 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read
3939 at or above grade level.

3940 (b) The council shall be composed of 17 members who are
3941 residents of the state and appointed as follows:

3942 1. Three members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

3943 a. One representative from the Department of Education.

3944 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.

3945 c. One representative that is an elementary school
3946 administrator.

3947 2. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate,
3948 as follows:

3949 a. One senator who serves at the pleasure of the President
3950 of the Senate.

- 3951 b. One representative of an urban school district.
- 3952 c. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.
- 3953 d. One representative of a faith-based early learning
 3954 provider who offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 3955 Program.
- 3956 e. One representative who is a second grade teacher who
 3957 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3958 f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in
 3959 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments.
- 3960 3. Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 3961 Representatives, as follows:
- 3962 a. One member of the House of Representatives who serves
 3963 at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House.
- 3964 b. One representative of a rural school district.
- 3965 c. One representative of an urban early learning
 3966 coalition.
- 3967 d. One representative of an early learning provider who
 3968 offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
- 3969 e. One member who is a kindergarten teacher who has at
 3970 least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3971 f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in
 3972 early learning, early grade success, or child assessment.
- 3973 4. The four representatives with subject matter expertise
 3974 in sub-sub-paragraphs 2.f. and 3.f. may not be direct
 3975 stakeholders within the early learning or public school systems.

3976 (5) The council shall elect a chair and vice chair, one of
 3977 whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in early
 3978 learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The vice
 3979 chair must be a member appointed by the President of the Senate
 3980 or the Speaker of the House of Representatives who is not one of
 3981 the four members with subject matter expertise in early
 3982 learning, early grade success, or child assessments appointed
 3983 pursuant to sub-sub-paragraphs (4) (b)2.f. and (4) (b)3.f. Members
 3984 of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled
 3985 to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
 3986 112.061.

3987 (6) The council must meet at least biannually and may meet
 3988 by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible, to
 3989 reduce costs.

3990 (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3991 Section 66. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of
 3992 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
 3993 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of
 3994 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection
 3995 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection
 3996 (5) of that section, to read:

3997 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
 3998 support; reporting requirements.—

3999 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

4000 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student

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

4011 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

4012 (b) The district school board may only exempt students
4013 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c)
4014 ~~(5)(b)~~, for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4
4015 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading
4016 instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic
4017 information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of
4018 each student so promoted. The school district shall assist
4019 schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit,
4020 systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and
4021 intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause
4022 exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving
4023 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause
4024 exemptions are limited to the following:

4025 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less

4026 | than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other
4027 | Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a
4028 | school in the United States.

4029 | 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education
4030 | plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment
4031 | program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of
4032 | s. 1008.212.

4033 | 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of
4034 | performance on an alternative standardized reading or English
4035 | Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of
4036 | Education.

4037 | 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio
4038 | that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the
4039 | statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

4040 | 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,
4041 | standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an
4042 | individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects
4043 | that the student has received intensive instruction in reading
4044 | or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still
4045 | demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in
4046 | kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

4047 | 6. Students who have received intensive reading
4048 | intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a
4049 | deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in
4050 | kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2

4051 | years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

4052 | (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE
4053 | STUDENTS.—

4054 | (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must
4055 | be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the
4056 | student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student
4057 | for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must
4058 | include:

4059 | 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory
4060 | reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
4061 | vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by
4062 | the school district.

4063 | 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading
4064 | camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention
4065 | strategies under subparagraph 1.

4066 | 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading
4067 | instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention
4068 | strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

4069 | a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social
4070 | studies within the 90-minute block.

4071 | b. Small group instruction.

4072 | c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4073 | d. More frequent progress monitoring.

4074 | e. Tutoring or mentoring.

4075 | f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade

4076 students.

4077 g. Extended school day, week, or year.

4078 (b) Each school district shall:

4079 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student
4080 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her
4081 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion
4082 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause
4083 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must
4084 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a
4085 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be
4086 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of
4087 reading deficiency.

4088 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a
4089 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can
4090 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent
4091 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,
4092 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,
4093 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.
4094 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student
4095 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative
4096 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of
4097 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the
4098 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels
4099 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning
4100 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education

4101 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation
4102 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate
4103 grade 4 level reading skills.

4104 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph
4105 (5)(c) ~~(5)(b)~~, including students participating in the school
4106 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a
4107 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's
4108 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,
4109 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4110 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive
4111 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3
4112 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade
4113 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the
4114 following:

4115 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of
4116 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the
4117 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core
4118 subject areas through content-rich texts.

4119 b. Small group instruction.

4120 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4121 d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory
4122 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,
4123 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language
4124 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating
4125 student reading achievement within the same school year.

4126 e. A read-at-home plan.

4127 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4128 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5)(c)
 4129 ~~(5)(b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the
 4130 parent of each student the progress of the student toward
 4131 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in
 4132 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.
 4133 The district school board must report to the parent the
 4134 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.
 4135 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the
 4136 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and
 4137 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided
 4138 under paragraph (5)(a), and other relevant information. Progress
 4139 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format
 4140 adopted by the district school board.

4141 Section 67. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended
 4142 to read:

4143 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
 4144 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,
 4145 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

4146 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the
 4147 Legislature that:

4148 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to
 4149 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20
 4150 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following

4151 | questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4152 | 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it
4153 | invests in education?

4154 | 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
4155 | education system educating its students?

4156 | 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors
4157 | promoting student achievement?

4158 | 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education
4159 | institutions performing their responsibility to educate their
4160 | students as measured by how students are performing and how much
4161 | they are learning?

4162 | (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance
4163 | accountability system be established as a single, unified
4164 | accountability system with multiple components, including, but
4165 | not limited to, student performance in public schools and school
4166 | and district grades.

4167 | (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system
4168 | comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of
4169 | 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with
4170 | Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4171 | (d) The early learning accountability system comply with
4172 | the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the
4173 | requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust
4174 | Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4175 | ~~(e)-(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of

4176 | Governors of the State University System recommend to the
 4177 | Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature
 4178 | establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the
 4179 | systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with
 4180 | information on what the public is receiving in return for the
 4181 | funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20
 4182 | ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4183 | (f)1.~~(e)1.~~ The State Board of Education establish
 4184 | performance measures and set performance standards for
 4185 | individual public schools and Florida College System
 4186 | institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on
 4187 | student achievement.

4188 | 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System
 4189 | establish performance measures and set performance standards for
 4190 | individual state universities, including actual completion
 4191 | rates.

4192 | (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4193 | (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 4194 | education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all
 4195 | students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them
 4196 | the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through
 4197 | learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,
 4198 | and communities.

4199 | (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific
 4200 | standards and measures must be:

- 4201 1. Focused on student success.
- 4202 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 4203 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 4204 4. Measurable over time.
- 4205 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 4206 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to
- 4207 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4208 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an
 4209 accountability system that measures student progress toward the
 4210 following goals:

- 4211 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence
- 4212 of student learning gains at all levels.
- 4213 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured
- 4214 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted
- 4215 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4216 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured
- 4217 by evidence of employment and earnings.
- 4218 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of
- 4219 return on investment.
- 4220 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4221 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide
 4222 data required to implement education performance accountability
 4223 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education
 4224 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality
 4225 and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to

4226 the department all data within the State University Database
4227 System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data
4228 warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such
4229 data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual
4230 and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college
4231 readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions
4232 shall annually provide data from the prior year to the
4233 educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse in a format based on data
4234 elements identified by the commissioner.

4235 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational
4236 institutions shall maintain information systems that will
4237 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of
4238 the State University System, and the Legislature with
4239 information and reports necessary to address the specifications
4240 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and
4241 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June
4242 30, 2001.

4243 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in
4244 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
4245 Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the
4246 prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format
4247 prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data
4248 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer
4249 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and
4250 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each

4251 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph
 4252 shall report the data to the department.

4253 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
 4254 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and
 4255 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to
 4256 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the
 4257 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the
 4258 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators
 4259 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary
 4260 educational institutions.

4261 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data
 4262 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing
 4263 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize
 4264 paperwork.

4265 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 4266 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
 4267 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data
 4268 warehouse.

4269 Section 68. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended
 4270 to read:

4271 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement
 4272 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the
 4273 performance of early learning coalitions, district school
 4274 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of
 4275 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school

4276 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees
4277 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state
4278 board rule.

4279 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board
4280 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to
4281 request and receive information, data, and reports from early
4282 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College
4283 System institutions. Early learning coalition chief executive
4284 officers or executive directors, district school
4285 superintendents, and Florida College System institution
4286 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information
4287 and data reported to the state board.

4288 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate
4289 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and
4290 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report
4291 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education
4292 which shall require the early learning coalition, district
4293 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
4294 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4295 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the
4296 State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General
4297 that an early learning coalition, a district school board, or
4298 Florida College System institution is acting without statutory
4299 authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of
4300 Education shall require the early learning coalition, district

4301 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
4302 trustees to document compliance with such law.

4303 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school
4304 board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees
4305 cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of
4306 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4307 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an
4308 early learning coalition, a district school board, or Florida
4309 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or
4310 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the
4311 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to
4312 initiate any of the following actions:

4313 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning
4314 coalition, school district, or Florida College System
4315 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state
4316 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4317 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary
4318 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds
4319 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until
4320 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida
4321 College System institution complies with the law or state board
4322 rule.

4323 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,
4324 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive
4325 grants.

4326 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation
 4327 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4328 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a
 4329 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or
 4330 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4331 Section 69. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 4332 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4333 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4334 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a
 4335 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.
 4336 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the
 4337 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school
 4338 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the
 4339 accountability requirements of the state school system and may
 4340 impose state requirements on school districts in order to
 4341 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and
 4342 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early
 4343 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal
 4344 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility
 4345 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of
 4346 Education.

4347 Section 70. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida
 4348 Statutes, is amended to read:

4349 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
 4350 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each

4351 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
4352 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
4353 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
4354 follows:

4355 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4356 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is
4357 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students
4358 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who
4359 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4360 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s.
4361 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the
4362 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year
4363 average of the state reading assessment data must use the
4364 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour
4365 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in
4366 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the
4367 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a
4368 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English
4369 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may
4370 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional
4371 student education centers may not be included in the 300
4372 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this
4373 additional hour shall include: research-based reading
4374 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of
4375 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated

4376 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,
4377 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading
4378 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop
4379 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and
4380 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided
4381 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of
4382 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text
4383 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4384 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading
4385 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district
4386 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each
4387 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount
4388 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any
4389 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school
4390 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of
4391 K-12 base funding.

4392 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to
4393 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to
4394 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who
4395 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4396 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
4397 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4398 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive
4399 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing
4400 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have

4401 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in
4402 paragraph (a).

4403 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based reading
4404 ~~intervention~~ teachers to provide intensive reading interventions
4405 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during
4406 the school day and in the required extra hour for students
4407 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4408 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically
4409 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on
4410 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading
4411 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas
4412 based on student need.

4413 4. Professional development for school district teachers
4414 in scientifically based reading instruction, including
4415 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an
4416 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school
4417 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in
4418 reading.

4419 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other
4420 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading
4421 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in
4422 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading
4423 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~
4424 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the
4425 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and

4426 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early
 4427 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 4428 Program under s. 1008.25(5) (b).

4429 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based
 4430 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~
 4431 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just
 4432 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4433 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in
 4434 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having
 4435 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as
 4436 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts
 4437 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial
 4438 deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary
 4439 Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1008.25(5) (b).

4440 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
 4441 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~
 4442 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
 4443 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by
 4444 the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
 4445 Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
 4446 annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
 4447 unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
 4448 school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach
 4449 agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may
 4450 appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School

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

4474 2. Each school district that has a school designated as
4475 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified

4476 | in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the
4477 | comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the
4478 | comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and
4479 | reading intervention strategies that will be used for the
4480 | required additional hour of reading instruction. The term
4481 | "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies
4482 | frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also
4483 | includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use
4484 | of technology that targets specific reading skills and
4485 | abilities.

4486

4487 | For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means
4488 | demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving
4489 | student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4490

Section 71. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.