

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 and 2021-2022 program year, the
1844 department shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for
1845 each private prekindergarten provider and public school
1846 participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1847 based upon learning gains and the percentage of students
1848 assessed as ready for kindergarten. The department shall require
1849 that each school district administer the statewide kindergarten
1850 screening in use before the 2022-2023 school year to each

1851 kindergarten student in the school district within the first 30
1852 school days of the 2021-2022 school year. Private schools may
1853 administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each
1854 kindergarten student in a private school who was enrolled in the
1855 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Learning gains
1856 shall be determined using a value-added measure based on growth
1857 demonstrated by the results of the preassessment and
1858 postassessment in use before the 2021-2022 program year. Any
1859 private prekindergarten provider or public school participating
1860 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program which fails
1861 to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for the 2020-
1862 2021 program year is subject to the probation requirements of
1863 subsection (5).

1864 (b) For the 2022-2023 program year, the department shall
1865 calculate a program assessment composite score for each provider
1866 based on the program assessment under subsection (2).

1867 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, the
1868 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each
1869 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's
1870 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the
1871 following:

1872 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection
1873 (3), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1874 2. Learning gains operationalized as change in ability
1875 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results

1876 described in subsection (1).

1877 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes
1878 described in subsection (1).

1879 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's
1880 performance metric may only include prekindergarten students who
1881 have attended at least 85 percent of a private prekindergarten
1882 provider's or public school's program.

1883 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance
1884 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or
1885 public school site.

1886 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent
1887 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent
1888 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early
1889 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability
1890 systems. The independent expert shall be able to produce a
1891 limited number of performance metric profiles that summarize the
1892 profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the following
1893 designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency,"
1894 "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable
1895 terminology determined by the State Board of Education which may
1896 not include letter grades. The independent expert may not be a
1897 direct stakeholder or have had a financial interest in the
1898 design or delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1899 Program or public school system within the last 5 years.

1900 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall

1901 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten
1902 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.
1903 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15
1904 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent
1905 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program
1906 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or
1907 public school may not receive a differential payment if it
1908 receives a designation of proficient or lower. Before the
1909 adoption of the methodology, the department and the independent
1910 expert shall confer with the Council for Early Grade Success
1911 under s. 1008.2125 before receiving approval from the State
1912 Board of Education for the final recommendations on the
1913 designation system and differential payments.

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

1926 | schools.

1927 | (g) A private prekindergarten provider or public school

1928 | that is designated proficient, highly proficient, or excellent

1929 | demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of

1930 | the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1931 | (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early

1932 | learning provider performance profiles required under s.

1933 | 1002.92 (3) .

1934 | (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten

1935 | provider's program assessment composite score for its

1936 | prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program

1937 | assessment composite score for contracting established by the

1938 | department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2) (n), the private

1939 | prekindergarten provider or public school may not participate in

1940 | the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the

1941 | consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school

1942 | or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite

1943 | score for contracting. A public school or private

1944 | prekindergarten provider may request one program assessment per

1945 | program year in order to requalify for participation in the

1946 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, provided that the

1947 | public school or private prekindergarten provider is not

1948 | excluded from participation under ss. 1002.55(6),

1949 | 1002.61(10) (b), 1002.63(9) (b), or paragraph (5) (b) of this

1950 | section. If a public school or private prekindergarten provider

1951 would like an additional program assessment completed within the
1952 same program year the public school or private prekindergarten
1953 provider shall be responsible for the cost of the program
1954 assessment.

1955 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider's or public
1956 school's performance metric or designation falls below the
1957 minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning
1958 coalition shall:

1959 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval
1960 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and
1961 implement the plan.

1962 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

1963 3. Require the provider or school to take certain
1964 corrective actions, including the use of a curriculum approved
1965 by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development
1966 plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional
1967 practices in emotional support, classroom organization,
1968 instructional support, language development, phonological
1969 awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

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

1976 or school's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1977 Education Program for a period of at least 2 years but no more
1978 than 5 years.

1979 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1980 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
1981 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted
1982 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall
1983 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's or
1984 school's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1985 Education Program and receive state funds for the program for a
1986 period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1987 (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private
1988 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
1989 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently
1990 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and
1991 for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an
1992 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the
1993 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
1994 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,
1995 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or
1996 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

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

2001 include the following:

2002 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or
2003 public school which documents the achievement and progress of
2004 the children served, as measured by any required screenings or
2005 assessments.

2006 2. Data from the program assessment required under
2007 subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices
2008 as recognized by the tool developer.

2009 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district
2010 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and
2011 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting
2012 association, as applicable, relating to the private
2013 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with
2014 state and local health and safety standards.

2015 (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good
2016 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not
2017 limited to, all of the following:

2018 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private
2019 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically
2020 significant population of children with special needs who have
2021 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward
2022 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education
2023 plans.

2024 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary
2025 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten

2026 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has
2027 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening
2028 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

2029 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which
2030 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the
2031 tool developer.

2032 4. Verification that local and state health and safety
2033 requirements are met.

2034 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any
2035 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any
2036 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as
2037 defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families,
2038 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request
2039 for the exemption.

2040 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
2041 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its
2042 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required
2043 under subsection (5) (b) until the provider or school meets the
2044 minimum performance metric.

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

2051 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary
 2052 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for
 2053 the program.

2054 (g) The department shall report the number of private
 2055 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a
 2056 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part
 2057 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(7).

2058 (7) Representatives from each school district and
 2059 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to
 2060 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary
 2061 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

2062 Section 42. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is
 2063 repealed.

2064 Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection
 2065 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of
 2066 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida
 2067 Statutes, are amended to read:

2068 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

2069 (3)

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

2076 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal
2077 year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent
2078 fiscal year.

2079 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

2080 (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs
2081 listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent
2082 of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under
2083 subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the
2084 funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw
2085 from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the
2086 programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of
2087 the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time
2088 equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and
2089 reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued
2090 in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~
2091 uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

2092 (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the
2093 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw
2094 from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the
2095 child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer
2096 programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time
2097 equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is
2098 reenrolled.

2099
2100 A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program

2101 under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten
 2102 program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from
 2103 the program and reenroll, unless the child is granted a good
 2104 cause exemption under this subsection. The department ~~Office of~~
 2105 ~~Early Learning~~ shall establish criteria specifying whether a
 2106 good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under
 2107 paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a
 2108 program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship
 2109 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under
 2110 paragraph (b).

2111 (5)

2112 (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt
 2113 procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers
 2114 and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2115 Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance
 2116 payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment
 2117 in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the
 2118 reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the
 2119 uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The
 2120 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds
 2121 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning
 2122 coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private
 2123 prekindergarten providers and public schools.

2124 (6)

2125 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district

2126 | school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each
 2127 | student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
 2128 | verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
 2129 | month's certified student attendance.

2130 | 2. The parent must submit the verification of the
 2131 | student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or
 2132 | public school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of~~
 2133 | ~~Early Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the
 2134 | verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in
 2135 | substantially the following form, that the parent continues to
 2136 | choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in
 2137 | accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the
 2138 | program be made to the provider or school:

2139 | VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
 2140 | AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

2141 | I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,
 2142 | ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2143 | Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I
 2144 | continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver
 2145 | the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid
 2146 | to the provider or school for my child.

2147 | ...(Signature of Parent)...

2148 | ...(Date)...

2149 | 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school
 2150 | must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each

2151 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning
2152 coalition, and each public school must permit the school
2153 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal
2154 business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
2155 adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school
2156 districts to review the original signed forms against the
2157 certified student attendance. The review procedures shall
2158 provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,
2159 including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early
2160 learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the
2161 review procedures.

2162 (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,
2163 for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the
2164 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance
2165 policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private
2166 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance
2167 policy must include at least the following provisions:

2168 1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata
2169 basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

2170 2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on
2171 behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a
2172 public school may be for hours a student is absent.

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

2176 attendance.

2177

2178 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding
 2179 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten
 2180 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its
 2181 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

2182 (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require
 2183 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum
 2184 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
 2185 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative
 2186 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent
 2187 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic
 2188 submission of forms, including those required for child
 2189 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and
 2190 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school
 2191 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system
 2192 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early
 2193 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In
 2194 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate
 2195 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative
 2196 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend
 2197 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to
 2198 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under
 2199 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition
 2200 under this subsection may be used only for administering the

2201 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used
 2202 for the school readiness program or other programs.

2203 Section 44. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida
 2204 Statutes, is amended to read:

2205 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary
 2206 Prekindergarten Education Program.—

2207 (1)(a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary
 2208 Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning
 2209 coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a
 2210 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are
 2211 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
 2212 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such
 2213 records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
 2214 observations, and personal identifying information of an
 2215 enrolled child and his or her parent.

2216 (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child
 2217 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held
 2218 by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early
 2219 Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2220 provider before, on, or after the effective date of this
 2221 exemption.

2222 Section 45. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2223 to read:

2224 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;
 2225 accountability requirements.—

2226 (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard
 2227 statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary
 2228 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized
 2229 attachments by provider type. The department shall publish a
 2230 copy of the standard statewide provider contract on its website.
 2231 The standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a
 2232 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for
 2233 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a
 2234 provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the
 2235 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide
 2236 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process
 2237 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,
 2238 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any
 2239 provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or
 2240 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~
 2241 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
 2242 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

2243 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:

2244 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials
 2245 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

2246 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early
 2247 mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and
 2248 1002.59.

2249 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers
 2250 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the

2251 minimum performance metric or designation as required by s.
2252 1002.68 of the high-quality professional development
2253 opportunities developed or supported by the department.

2254 (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2255 Education Program by the early learning coalitions, including,
2256 but not limited to, procedures for:

2257 1. Enrolling students in and determining the eligibility
2258 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2259 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children
2260 by public schools and private providers that meet specified
2261 requirements.

2262 2. Providing parents with profiles of private
2263 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

2264 3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and
2265 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,
2266 1002.61, and 1002.63.

2267 4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten
2268 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61
2269 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility
2270 whenever possible.

2271 5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten
2272 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools
2273 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or
2274 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2275 6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public

2276 schools under s. 1002.71.

2277 7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and
2278 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

2279 8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the
2280 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2281 9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private
2282 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with
2283 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.
2284 1002.71.

2285 (3) The department shall administer the accountability
2286 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
2287 at the state level.

2288 (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the
2289 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2290 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

2291 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten
2292 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2293 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public
2294 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.
2295 1002.68.

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

2301 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program
 2302 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
 2303 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the
 2304 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2305 Education Program.

2306 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
 2307 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2308 under s. 1002.66.

2309 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers
 2310 under s. 1002.66.

2311 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~
 2312 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~
 2313 ~~1002.69.~~

2314 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~
 2315 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
 2316 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
 2317 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~
 2318 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
 2319 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
 2320 ~~department.~~

2321 (f)(e) Approving Approval of specialized instructional
 2322 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2323 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~
 2324 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2325 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or

2326 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.
 2327 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.69(7)~~.

2328 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the
 2329 distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.
 2330 1002.71.

2331 ~~(6)(3)~~ Except as provided by law, the department may not
 2332 impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or
 2333 public school that does not deliver the Voluntary
 2334 Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under
 2335 this part.

2336 Section 46. Sections 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is
 2337 repealed.

2338 Section 47. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2339 to read:

2340 1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education
 2341 ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)
 2342 and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring
 2343 duties upon the department ~~office~~.

2344 Section 48. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2345 to read:

2346 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of
 2347 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2348 (1) "At-risk child" means:

2349 (a) A child from a family under investigation by the
 2350 Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's

2351 office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2352 (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the
 2353 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider
 2354 and who is from a family that is actively participating and
 2355 complying in department-prescribed activities, including
 2356 education, health services, or work.

2357 (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the
 2358 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service
 2359 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2360 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or
 2361 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after
 2362 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and
 2363 Families or its contracted provider.

2364 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a
 2365 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a
 2366 certified domestic violence center.

2367 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered
 2368 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families
 2369 certified homeless shelter.

2370 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care
 2371 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,
 2372 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,
 2373 including reasonable travel time.

2374 (3) "Department" means the Department of Education.

2375 (4) "Direct enhancement services" means services for

2376 families and children that are in addition to payments for the
 2377 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct
 2378 enhancement services for families and children may include
 2379 supports for providers, parent training and involvement
 2380 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique
 2381 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement
 2382 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be
 2383 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
 2384 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2385 (5) "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary or
 2386 permanent, of a child from participation in the school readiness
 2387 program. Removal of a child from the school readiness program
 2388 may be based on the following events: a reduction in available
 2389 school readiness program funding, participant's failure to meet
 2390 eligibility or program participation requirements, fraud, or a
 2391 change in local service priorities.

2392 (6) "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived from
 2393 work, professional service, or self-employment. The term
 2394 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash
 2395 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

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

2401 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according
2402 to weather conditions and market stability.

2403 (8) "Family income" means the combined gross income,
2404 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by
2405 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older
2406 who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.
2407 The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled
2408 high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or
2409 a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22
2410 years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high
2411 school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special
2412 diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also
2413 does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing
2414 assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the
2415 associated utilities expenses.

2416 (9) "Family or household members" means spouses, former
2417 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are
2418 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have
2419 been married, and other persons who are currently residing
2420 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

2421 (10) "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not more
2422 than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education
2423 services within a 24-hour period.

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

2426 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early
 2427 childhood education services.

2428 ~~(12) "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the~~
 2429 ~~Department of Education.~~

2430 (12)~~(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child
 2431 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour
 2432 period.

2433 (13)~~(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the
 2434 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency
 2435 distribution average of the market rate by program care level
 2436 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which
 2437 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

2438 (14) "Single point of entry" means an integrated
 2439 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her
 2440 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary
 2441 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations
 2442 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or
 2443 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a
 2444 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for
 2445 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2446 (15) "Unearned income" means income other than earned
 2447 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

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

2451 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.

2452 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation
 2453 benefits.

2454 (f) Veterans' benefits.

2455 (g) Retirement benefits.

2456 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.

2457 (16) "Working family" means:

2458 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom
 2459 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2460 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;

2461 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom
 2462 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2463 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours
 2464 per week; or

2465 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with
 2466 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to
 2467 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician
 2468 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is
 2469 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at
 2470 least 20 hours per week.

2471 Section 49. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2472 to read:

2473 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;
 2474 powers and duties.—

2475 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and

2476 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts
 2477 98 and 99, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ is designated
 2478 as the lead agency and must comply with lead agency
 2479 responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department ~~office~~
 2480 may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of, and the
 2481 Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss. 411.223 and
 2482 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for implementation of the
 2483 school readiness program. Section 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply
 2484 to the school readiness program.

2485 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2486 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered
 2487 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

2488 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to
 2489 choose from a variety of child care categories, including
 2490 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to
 2491 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development
 2492 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health
 2493 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and
 2494 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or
 2495 excluded in any of these categories.

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

2501 including:

2502 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for
 2503 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides
 2504 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,
 2505 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.
 2506 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

- 2507 a. Direct services to children.
- 2508 b. Administrative costs.
- 2509 c. Quality activities.
- 2510 d. Nondirect services.

2511 2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to
 2512 perform data matches on children participating in the school
 2513 readiness program and their families in order to verify the
 2514 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.

2515 (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of
 2516 the prevailing average market rate or an alternative model that
 2517 has been approved by the Administration for Children and
 2518 Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c).

2519 (e) Review each early learning coalition's school
 2520 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval
 2521 of the plan and any amendments submitted.

2522 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to
 2523 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of
 2524 this effort, the department office:

- 2525 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that

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

2551 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety
2552 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child
2553 care training and credentialing.

2554 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local
2555 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of
2556 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of
2557 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify
2558 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist
2559 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a
2560 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for
2561 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety
2562 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the
2563 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A
2564 child development program that is accredited by a national
2565 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is
2566 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted
2567 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2568 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the Develop
2569 ~~and adopt~~ standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the
2570 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children
2571 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for
2572 children from birth to kindergarten entry ~~5 years of age~~ in the
2573 school readiness program must be aligned with the performance
2574 standards adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2575 Education Program and must address the following domains:

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

2601 performance standards for the school readiness program and
2602 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's
2603 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

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

2626 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting
2627 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)
2628 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to
2629 paragraph (n).

2630 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness
2631 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child
2632 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,
2633 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and
2634 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The
2635 implementation of the program assessment must ~~also~~ include the
2636 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of
2637 Education:

2638 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program
2639 assessment composite score threshold for contracting purposes
2640 and program improvement through an improvement plan. The minimum
2641 program assessment composite score required for the Voluntary
2642 Prekindergarten Education Program contracting threshold must be
2643 the same as the minimum program assessment composite score
2644 required for contracting for the school readiness program. The
2645 methodology for the calculation of the minimum program
2646 assessment composite score shall be reviewed by the independent
2647 expert identified in s. 1002.68(4)(d).

2648 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of
2649 program assessment, and exemptions.

2650 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential

2651 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the
2652 department ~~office~~ under paragraph (n). The differential payment
2653 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and
2654 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5
2655 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to
2656 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide
2657 information system in the domains of language and executive
2658 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to
2659 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum program assessment
2660 score adopted ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes are ineligible
2661 for such payment.

2662 (p) No later than July 1, 2022, develop and adopt
2663 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to
2664 make available contracted slots to serve children at the
2665 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children
2666 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty
2667 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted
2668 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of
2669 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.
2670 1002.85(2)(j).

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

2676 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early
2677 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.
2678 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

2679 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her
2680 child as the child moves among programs within the state.

2681 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level
2682 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality
2683 improvement and investment decisions.

2684 (r)~~(q)~~ Provide technical support to coalitions to
2685 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures
2686 adopted in state board rule for early learning coalitions to use
2687 when monitoring the compliance of school readiness program
2688 providers with the terms of the standard statewide provider
2689 contract.

2690 (s)~~(r)~~ At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic
2691 monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early
2692 learning coalition in administering the school readiness
2693 program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program
2694 services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program
2695 plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2696 Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must
2697 include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's
2698 finances, management, operations, and programs.

2699 (t)~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal
2700 Education Programs within the department ~~of Education~~ to

2701 coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to
 2702 the populations served by the bureau.

2703 (u)~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to
 2704 provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and
 2705 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,
 2706 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
 2707 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
 2708 special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2709 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day
 2710 care homes of the availability of this service through the child
 2711 care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2712 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line
 2713 to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning
 2714 coalition service area.

2715 (v)~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the
 2716 supply and improve the quality of child care services for
 2717 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who
 2718 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in
 2719 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant
 2720 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

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

2726 integration of early learning professional development pathways
 2727 established in s. 1002.995.

2728 ~~(x)-(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness
 2729 plans for school readiness program providers.

2730 ~~(y)-(x)~~ Establish group sizes.

2731 ~~(z)-(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not
 2732 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.
 2733 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program
 2734 providers.

2735 ~~(aa)-(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including
 2736 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance
 2737 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2738 (3)(a) The department shall adopt performance standards
 2739 and outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a
 2740 minimum, include the development of objective and statistically
 2741 valid customer service surveys by a state university of other
 2742 independent researcher with specific expertise in customer
 2743 service survey development. The survey shall be deployed
 2744 beginning in fiscal year 2022-2023 and be distributed to:

2745 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the
 2746 completion of a referral inquiry.

2747 2. Parents, annually, at the time of eligibility
 2748 determination.

2749 3. Child care providers that participate in the school
 2750 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

2751 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider
 2752 contract.

2753 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

2754 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a
 2755 statistically significant sample size of completed surveys and
 2756 calculated annually for each early learning coalition and
 2757 included in the department's annual report under subsection (7).
 2758 If an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction survey
 2759 results are below 60 percent, the coalition shall be placed on a
 2760 1-year corrective action plan that outlines the specific steps
 2761 the coalition shall take to improve the results of the customer
 2762 service surveys, including, but not limited to, technical
 2763 assistance, staff professional development, or coaching. If,
 2764 after being placed on corrective action, an early learning
 2765 coalition's customer satisfaction survey results do not improve
 2766 above the 60 percent threshold, the department may contract out
 2767 or merge the coalition.

2768 (4)~~(3)~~ If the department ~~office~~ determines during the
 2769 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring
 2770 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an
 2771 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its
 2772 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and
 2773 outcome measures adopted by the department or the terms of a
 2774 customer service corrective action plan ~~office~~, or has not
 2775 effectively administered the school readiness program or

2776 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the department
2777 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer
2778 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a
2779 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and
2780 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
2781 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or
2782 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is
2783 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board
2784 ~~office~~.

2785 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for merging
2786 early learning coalitions for failure to meet the requirements
2787 of subsection (3) or subsection (4), including procedures for
2788 the consolidation of merging coalitions that minimizes
2789 duplication of programs and services due to the merger, and for
2790 the early termination of the terms of the coalition members
2791 which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

2792 (6)~~(4)~~ The department ~~office~~ may request the Governor to
2793 apply for a waiver to allow a coalition to administer the Head
2794 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness
2795 program.

2796 (7)~~(5)~~ By January 1 of each year, the department ~~office~~
2797 shall annually publish on its website a report of its activities
2798 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary
2799 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the
2800 following:

2801 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout
 2802 the state, including the school readiness program and the
 2803 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2804 1. The total and average number of children served in the
 2805 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility
 2806 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of
 2807 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2808 Program.

2809 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,
 2810 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of
 2811 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,
 2812 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

2813 3. A description of the department's ~~office's~~ and each
 2814 coalition's expenditures by fund source for the quality and
 2815 enhancement activities described in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~
 2816 ~~1002.89(6)(b)~~.

2817 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to
 2818 provider fraud and parent fraud.

2819 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early
 2820 learning programs.

2821 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and
 2822 the reason for disenrollment.

2823 7. The total number of providers by provider type.

2824 8. The number of school readiness program providers who
 2825 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph

2826 (2) (n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum
2827 program assessment composite score threshold for contracting
2828 established under paragraph (2) (n); and the number of providers
2829 that have an active improvement plan based on the results of the
2830 program assessment under paragraph (2) (n).

2831 9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the
2832 reasons for revocation.

2833 (b) A detailed summary of the analysis compiled using the
2834 single statewide information system established in subsection
2835 (2) activities and detailed expenditures related to the Child
2836 Care Executive Partnership Program.

2837 (8) (a) (6) (a) Parental choice of child care providers,
2838 including private and faith-based providers, shall be
2839 established to the maximum extent practicable in accordance with
2840 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

2841 (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment
2842 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45
2843 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

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

2851 representative of the provider.

2852 (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash
 2853 or other consideration to the beneficiary in return for
 2854 receiving a payment certificate, the early learning coalition or
 2855 its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the Department of
 2856 Financial Services pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

2857 (9)~~(7)~~ Participation in the school readiness program does
 2858 not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers,
 2859 or an early learning coalition to impose any additional
 2860 regulation on providers beyond those necessary to enforce the
 2861 requirements set forth in this part and part V of this chapter.

2862 Section 50. Subsections (5) through (14) of section
 2863 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)
 2864 through (15), respectively, subsections (1) and (3), paragraphs
 2865 (e), (f), and (m) of subsection (4), and present subsections
 2866 (5), (11), and (13) are amended, and a new subsection (5) is
 2867 added to that section, to read:

2868 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

2869 (1) Thirty ~~Thirty-one~~ or fewer early learning coalitions
 2870 are established and shall maintain direct enhancement services
 2871 at the local level and provide access to such services in all 67
 2872 counties. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for
 2873 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness program
 2874 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

2875 (3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other

2876 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the
2877 ~~same~~ qualifications of a as private sector business member
2878 ~~members appointed by the coalition~~ under subsection (6) (5). In
2879 the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of
2880 Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early
2881 learning coalition board membership.

2882 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the
2883 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
2884 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
2885 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
2886 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
2887 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of
2888 such members may serve as a voting member:

2889 (e) A children's services council or juvenile welfare
2890 board chair or executive director from each county, if
2891 applicable.

2892 (f) A Department of Children and Families child care
2893 regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing
2894 agency as defined in s. 402.302, where applicable.

2895 ~~(m) A central agency administrator, where applicable.~~

2896 (5) If members of the board are found to be
2897 nonparticipating according to the early learning coalition
2898 bylaws, the early learning coalition may request an alternate
2899 designee who meets the same qualifications or membership
2900 requirements of the nonparticipating member.

2901 (6)-(5) The early learning coalition may appoint additional
2902 including the members who appointed by the Governor under
2903 subsection (3), ~~more than one-third of the members of each early~~
2904 ~~learning coalition~~ must be private sector business members,
2905 either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of
2906 whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial
2907 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
2908 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this
2909 chapter or the school readiness program. ~~To meet this~~
2910 ~~requirement, an early learning coalition must appoint additional~~
2911 ~~members.~~ The department office shall establish criteria for
2912 appointing private sector business members. These criteria must
2913 include standards for determining whether a member or relative
2914 has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery
2915 of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school
2916 readiness program.

2917 (12)-(11) Each early learning coalition shall establish
2918 terms for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must
2919 be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4
2920 years per term. ~~Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years~~
2921 ~~pursuant to s. 20.052.~~ Appointed members may serve a maximum of
2922 two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed
2923 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

2924 (14)-(13) Each early learning coalition shall complete an
2925 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive

2926 | director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the
 2927 | department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the
 2928 | commissioner by August 30 of each year. ~~use a coordinated~~
 2929 | ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~
 2930 | ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~
 2931 | ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~
 2932 | ~~adopted by the office.~~

2933 | Section 51. Subsections (7) through (20) of section
 2934 | 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)
 2935 | through (21), respectively, subsections (1), (2), and (4) and
 2936 | present subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20)
 2937 | of that section are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added
 2938 | to that section, to read:

2939 | 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
 2940 | and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2941 | (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program
 2942 | of school readiness program services in accordance with this
 2943 | part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which
 2944 | enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of
 2945 | children to achieve the performance standards.

2946 | (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible
 2947 | children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program
 2948 | in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education
 2949 | ~~office~~.

2950 | (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the

2951 department office pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.
2952 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical
2953 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and
2954 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,
2955 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care
2956 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve
2957 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2958 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that
2959 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by
2960 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the
2961 performance standards adopted by the department.

2962 (8)~~(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87
2963 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child
2964 eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must
2965 document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school
2966 readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by
2967 the department office.

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

2976 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in
2977 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency
2978 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the
2979 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in
2980 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may
2981 not transfer school readiness program services to another school
2982 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted
2983 documentation from the current school readiness program provider
2984 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has
2985 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2986 (16)~~(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in
2987 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental
2988 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.
2989 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring
2990 tool adopted by the department ~~office~~. Providers determined to
2991 be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial
2992 findings of violations of federal law or the general or local
2993 laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers
2994 with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored
2995 biennially.

2996 (17)~~(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all
2997 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The
2998 payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
2999 average market rate or an alternative model that has been
3000 approved by the Administration for Children and Families

3001 pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 98.45(c), include the projected number of
 3002 children to be served, and be submitted for approval by the
 3003 department office. Informal child care arrangements shall be
 3004 reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a
 3005 family day care home.

3006 (18)~~(17)~~ Implement an anti-fraud plan addressing the
 3007 detection, reporting, and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and
 3008 fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school
 3009 readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 3010 Program services and submit the plan to the department office
 3011 for approval, as required by s. 1002.91.

3012 (19)~~(18)~~ By October 1 of each year, submit an annual
 3013 report to the department office. The report shall conform to the
 3014 format adopted by the department office and must include:

3015 (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,
 3016 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program funds, ~~Child Care~~
 3017 ~~Executive Partnership Program funds~~, and other local revenues
 3018 available to the coalition.

3019 (b) Details of expenditures by fund source, including
 3020 total expenditures for administrative activities, quality
 3021 activities, nondirect services, and direct services for
 3022 children.

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

3026 expenditures for salaries and benefits must be included.

3027 (d) The number of children served in the school readiness
 3028 program, by provider type, enumerated by age and eligibility
 3029 priority category, reported as the number of children served
 3030 during the month, the average participation throughout the
 3031 month, and the number of children served during the month.

3032 (e) The total number of children disenrolled during the
 3033 year and the reasons for disenrollment.

3034 (f) The total number of providers by provider type.

3035 (g) A listing of any school readiness program provider, by
 3036 type, whose eligibility to deliver the school readiness program
 3037 is revoked, including a brief description of the state or
 3038 federal violation that resulted in the revocation.

3039 (h) An evaluation of its direct enhancement services.

3040 (i) The total number of children served in each provider
 3041 facility.

3042 (21) (a) ~~(20)~~ To increase transparency and accountability,
 3043 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting
 3044 with one or more of the following persons or business entities
 3045 which employs, has a contractual relationship with, or is owned
 3046 by the following persons:

3047 1. A member of the coalition appointed pursuant to s.
 3048 1002.83(3);

3049 2. A board member of any other early learning subrecipient
 3050 entity;

3051 3. A coalition employee; or

3052 4. A relative, as defined in s. 112.3143(1) (c), of any
3053 person listed in subparagraphs 1.-3 ~~a coalition member or of an~~
3054 ~~employee of the coalition.~~

3055 (b) Such contracts may not be executed without the
3056 approval of the department ~~office~~. Such contracts, as well as
3057 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the
3058 coalition, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the
3059 coalition, a quorum having been established; all conflicts of
3060 interest must be disclosed before the vote; and any member who
3061 may benefit from the contract, or whose relative may benefit
3062 from the contract, must abstain from the vote. A contract under
3063 \$25,000 ~~between an early learning coalition and a member of that~~
3064 ~~coalition or between a relative, as defined in s.~~
3065 ~~112.3143(1) (c), of a coalition member or of an employee of the~~
3066 ~~coalition~~ is not required to have the prior approval of the
3067 department ~~office~~ but must be approved by a two-thirds vote of
3068 the coalition, a quorum having been established, and must be
3069 reported to the department ~~office~~ within 30 days after approval.
3070 If a contract cannot be approved by the department ~~office~~, a
3071 review of the decision to disapprove the contract may be
3072 requested by the early learning coalition or other parties to
3073 the disapproved contract.

3074 Section 52. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended
3075 to read:

3076 | 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

3077 | (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules prescribing
3078 | the standardized format and required content of school readiness
3079 | program plans as necessary for a coalition or other qualified
3080 | entity to administer the school readiness program as provided in
3081 | this part.

3082 | (2) Each early learning coalition must biennially submit a
3083 | school readiness program plan to the department ~~office~~ before
3084 | the expenditure of funds. A coalition may not implement its
3085 | school readiness program plan until it receives approval from
3086 | the department ~~office~~. A coalition may not implement any
3087 | revision to its school readiness program plan until the
3088 | coalition submits the revised plan to and receives approval from
3089 | the department ~~office~~. If the department ~~office~~ rejects a plan
3090 | or revision, the coalition must continue to operate under its
3091 | previously approved plan. The plan must include, but is not
3092 | limited to:

3093 | (a) The coalition's operations, including its membership
3094 | and business organization, and the coalition's articles of
3095 | incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a
3096 | corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation
3097 | or other business entity, the plan must include the contract
3098 | with a fiscal agent.

3099 | (b) The minimum number of children to be served by care
3100 | level.

3101 (c) The coalition's procedures for implementing the
 3102 requirements of this part, including:
 3103 1. Single point of entry.
 3104 2. Uniform waiting list.
 3105 3. Eligibility and enrollment processes and local
 3106 eligibility priorities for children pursuant to s. 1002.87.
 3107 4. Parent access and choice.
 3108 5. Sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver
 3109 or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9) ~~s.~~
 3110 ~~1002.84(8)~~.
 3111 6. Use of preassessments and postassessments, as
 3112 applicable.
 3113 7. Payment rate schedule.
 3114 8. Use of contracted slots, as applicable, based on the
 3115 results of the assessment required under paragraph (j).
 3116 (d) A detailed description of the coalition's quality
 3117 activities and services, including, but not limited to:
 3118 1. Resource and referral and school-age child care.
 3119 2. Infant and toddler early learning.
 3120 3. Inclusive early learning programs.
 3121 4. Quality improvement strategies that strengthen teaching
 3122 practices and increase child outcomes.
 3123 (e) A detailed budget that outlines estimated expenditures
 3124 for state, federal, and local matching funds at the lowest level
 3125 of detail available by other-cost-accumulator code number; all

3126 | estimated sources of revenue with identifiable descriptions; a
3127 | listing of full-time equivalent positions; contracted
3128 | subcontractor costs with related annual compensation amount or
3129 | hourly rate of compensation; and a capital improvements plan
3130 | outlining existing fixed capital outlay projects and proposed
3131 | capital outlay projects that will begin during the budget year.

3132 | (f) A detailed accounting, in the format prescribed by the
3133 | department office, of all revenues and expenditures during the
3134 | previous state fiscal year. Revenue sources should be
3135 | identifiable, and expenditures should be reported by two ~~three~~
3136 | categories: state and federal funds and, local matching funds,
3137 | ~~and Child Care Executive Partnership Program funds.~~

3138 | (g) Updated policies and procedures, including those
3139 | governing procurement, maintenance of tangible personal
3140 | property, maintenance of records, information technology
3141 | security, and disbursement controls.

3142 | (h) A description of the procedures for monitoring school
3143 | readiness program providers, including in response to a parental
3144 | complaint, to determine that the standards prescribed in ss.
3145 | 1002.82 and 1002.88 are met using a standard monitoring tool
3146 | adopted by the department office. Providers determined to be
3147 | high risk by the coalition as demonstrated by substantial
3148 | findings of violations of law shall be monitored more
3149 | frequently.

3150 | (i) Documentation that the coalition has solicited and

3151 considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness
3152 program plan from the local community.

3153 (j) An assessment of local priorities within the county or
3154 multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider
3155 capacity using available community data.

3156 (3) The coalition may periodically amend its plan as
3157 necessary. An amended plan must be submitted to and approved by
3158 the department ~~office~~ before any expenditures are incurred on
3159 the new activities proposed in the amendment.

3160 (4) The department ~~office~~ shall publish a copy of the
3161 standardized format and required content of school readiness
3162 program plans on its website.

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

3176 shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness
 3177 program providers before finalizing the format and data to be
 3178 used. The report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014,
 3179 and results of the report must be included in the annual report
 3180 under s. 1002.82.

3181 Section 53. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),
 3182 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section
 3183 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is
 3184 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

3185 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;
 3186 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

3187 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness
 3188 program, a school readiness program provider must:

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

3201 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.
3202 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license
3203 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program
3204 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

3205 (b) Provide instruction and activities to enhance the age-
3206 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the child
3207 development standards adopted by the department ~~office~~ pursuant
3208 to s. 1002.82(2)(j). A provider should include activities to
3209 foster brain development in infants and toddlers; provide an
3210 environment that is rich in language and music and filled with
3211 objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to
3212 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses; and
3213 include 30 minutes of reading to children each day.

3214 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and
3215 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate
3216 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness
3217 program.

3218 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.
3219 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as
3220 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

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

3226 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist
3227 adopted by the department ~~office~~ prominently on its premises in
3228 plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit
3229 the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

3230 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a
3231 national accrediting body and operates on a military
3232 installation that is certified by the United States Department
3233 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual
3234 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense
3235 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

3236 (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in s.
3237 402.302(3), who have satisfied the screening requirements of
3238 chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the
3239 department ~~office~~.

3240 (f) Implement one of the curricula approved by the
3241 department ~~office~~ that meets the child development standards.

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

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

3258 (n) For a provider that is an informal provider, comply
3259 with the provisions of paragraph (m) or maintain homeowner's
3260 liability insurance and, if applicable, a business rider. If an
3261 informal provider chooses to maintain a homeowner's policy, the
3262 provider must obtain and retain a homeowner's insurance policy
3263 that provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence
3264 and a minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The
3265 department ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as
3266 appropriate. An informal provider must add the coalition as a
3267 named certificateholder and as an additional insured. An
3268 informal provider must provide the coalition with a minimum of
3269 10 calendar days' advance written notice of cancellation of or
3270 changes to coverage. The general liability insurance required by
3271 this paragraph must remain in full force and effect for the
3272 entire period of the provider's contract with the coalition.

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

3276 liability coverage maintained by the provider in addition to
 3277 that otherwise established under s. 768.28. The provider shall
 3278 indemnify the coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28.
 3279 Notwithstanding paragraph (m), for a child development program
 3280 that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates
 3281 on a military installation that is certified by the United
 3282 States Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate
 3283 liability coverage by affirming that it is subject to the
 3284 Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. ss. 2671 et seq.

3285 (q) Execute the standard statewide provider contract
 3286 adopted by the department office.

3287 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has
 3288 been granted under s. 1002.84(9).

3289 (3) The department office and the coalitions may not:

3290 (a) Impose any requirement on a child care provider or
 3291 early childhood education provider that does not deliver
 3292 services under the school readiness program or receive state or
 3293 federal funds under this part;

3294 (b) Impose any requirement on a school readiness program
 3295 provider that exceeds the authority provided under this part or
 3296 part V of this chapter or rules adopted pursuant to this part or
 3297 part V of this chapter; or

3298 (c) Require a provider to administer a preassessment or
 3299 postassessment.

3300 Section 54. Subsections (3) through (7) of section

3301 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)
 3302 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present
 3303 subsections (3) and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3304 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

3305 ~~(2) The office shall administer school readiness program~~
 3306 ~~funds and prepare and submit a unified budget request for the~~
 3307 ~~school readiness program in accordance with chapter 216.~~

3308 (2)~~(3)~~ All instructions to early learning coalitions for
 3309 administering this section shall emanate from the department
 3310 ~~office~~ in accordance with the policies of the Legislature.

3311 (5)~~(6)~~ Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for
 3312 the efficient and effective administration of the school
 3313 readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being
 3314 direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5
 3315 percent of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~
 3316 may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent
 3317 of the funds described in subsection (4) ~~subsection (5)~~ may be
 3318 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative
 3319 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

3320 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.
 3321 98.54 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.52~~, which shall include monitoring
 3322 providers using the standard methodology adopted under s.
 3323 1002.82 to improve compliance with state and federal regulations
 3324 and law pursuant to the requirements of the statewide provider
 3325 contract adopted under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3326 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as
 3327 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.51~~, which shall
 3328 be limited to the following:

3329 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and
 3330 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related
 3331 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents
 3332 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified
 3333 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

3334 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to
 3335 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist
 3336 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program
 3337 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care
 3338 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate
 3339 curricula and related classroom resources that support
 3340 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued
 3341 professional development and training. Any grants awarded
 3342 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and
 3343 287.058.

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

3351 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,
3352 prevention, and reporting.

3353 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
3354 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
3355 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
3356 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for
3357 infant and toddler care.

3358 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and
3359 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as
3360 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

3361 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
3362 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
3363 to school readiness program children.

3364 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office
3365 of Management and Budget instructions are those services not
3366 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are
3367 required to administer the school readiness program. Such
3368 services include, but are not limited to:

3369 1. Assisting families to complete the required application
3370 and eligibility documentation.

3371 2. Determining child and family eligibility.

3372 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.

3373 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.

3374 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care
3375 information system.

3376
3377 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does
3378 not include payments to school readiness program providers for
3379 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.
3380 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or
3381 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3382 Section 55. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection
3383 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,
3384 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3385 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness
3386 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

3387 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for
3388 the adoption of a market rate schedule until an alternative
3389 model that has been approved by the Administration for Children
3390 and Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c) is available for
3391 adoption. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-
3392 county rates:

3393 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum
3394 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality
3395 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting
3396 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
3397 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3398 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not
3399 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3400 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3401 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not
3402 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality
3403 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its
3404 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
3405 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.
3406 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure
3407 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from
3408 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal
3409 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home
3410 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed
3411 or registered under s. 402.313.

3412 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an
3413 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.
3414 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
3415 average market rate ~~and~~ and include the projected number of
3416 children to be served by each county ~~and~~ and be submitted for
3417 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care
3418 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of
3419 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3420 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more
3421 qualified entities to administer this section and provide
3422 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3423 (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing
3424 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market
3425 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by

3426 program care level and provider type in a predetermined
 3427 geographic market, and the publication of the market rate
 3428 schedule.

3429 Section 56. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3430 to read:

3431 1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;
 3432 penalties.—

3433 (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an
 3434 intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a
 3435 person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or
 3436 misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that
 3437 person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the
 3438 commission of such an act. The term includes any act that
 3439 constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

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

3451 benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who
3452 may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the
3453 disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits
3454 authorizations to recipients.

3455 (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the
3456 department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the
3457 investigation to the Department of Financial Services for
3458 criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable
3459 coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the
3460 department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of
3461 Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3462 (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a
3463 provider from participation in the school readiness program or
3464 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has
3465 reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed
3466 fraud. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt by rule appropriate due
3467 process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply
3468 in suspending or terminating any provider, including the
3469 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider
3470 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation
3471 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,
3472 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent
3473 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3474 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary
3475 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,

3476 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,
3477 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of
3478 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or
3479 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been
3480 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3481 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3482 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall
3483 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that
3484 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition
3485 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,
3486 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider
3487 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3488 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3489 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3490 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise
3491 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation
3492 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate
3493 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,
3494 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems
3495 appropriate.

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

3501 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the
3502 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified
3503 List.

3504 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-
3505 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of
3506 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and
3507 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary
3508 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan
3509 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~
3510 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,
3511 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud
3512 plan must include, at a minimum:

3513 (a) A written description or chart outlining the
3514 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are
3515 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible
3516 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3517 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting
3518 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3519 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the
3520 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to
3521 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3522 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for
3523 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent
3524 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3525 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the

3526 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department
3527 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness
3528 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a
3529 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes
3530 has committed fraud.

3531 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in
3532 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.
3533 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3534 Section 57. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),
3535 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida
3536 Statutes, are amended to read:

3537 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
3538 referral.—

3539 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the
3540 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care
3541 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides
3542 referrals to families for child care and information on
3543 available community resources. Preference shall be given to
3544 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and
3545 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply
3546 with the requirements to offer the resource information
3547 component or does not want to offer that service, the early
3548 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency
3549 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement
3550 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

3551 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency
3552 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or
3553 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3554 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral
3555 services offered through child care resource and referral
3556 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at
3557 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents
3558 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff
3559 training requirements.

3560 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall
3561 provide the following services:

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

3576 ~~assistance program, and related family support services.~~ The
3577 early learning provider performance profile resource file shall
3578 include, but not be limited to:

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

3601 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the
 3602 curriculum, if applicable.

3603 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment
 3604 under s. 1002.82.

3605 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for
 3606 service tabulated through the internal referral process through
 3607 the single statewide information system. The following
 3608 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the
 3609 child care resource and referral network:

3610 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource
 3611 information and referral network component by type of service
 3612 requested.

3613 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3614 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3615 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and
 3616 swing shift.

3617 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3618 6. Customer service survey data required under s.

3619 ~~1002.82 (3) Name of the employer and primary focus of the~~
 3620 ~~business for an employer-based child care program.~~

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

3626 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~
 3627 ~~1. Information on initiating new child care services,~~
 3628 ~~zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in~~
 3629 ~~finding such information from other sources.~~
 3630 ~~2. Information and resources which help existing child~~
 3631 ~~care services providers to maximize their ability to serve~~
 3632 ~~children and parents in their community.~~
 3633 ~~3. Information and incentives that may help existing or~~
 3634 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~
 3635 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~
 3636 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~
 3637 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~
 3638 ~~businesses.~~

3639 Section 58. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida
 3640 Statutes, is amended to read:

3641 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

3642 (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning
 3643 coalition to establish school readiness program transportation
 3644 services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are
 3645 participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to
 3646 chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the
 3647 provision of transportation services as required by this
 3648 section.

3649 Section 59. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is
 3650 repealed.

3651 Section 60. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3652 to read:

3653 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
 3654 scholarship program.—

3655 (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the
 3656 administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps
 3657 (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational
 3658 scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood
 3659 programs, family day care homes, and large family child care
 3660 homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and
 3661 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child
 3662 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the
 3663 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood
 3664 education.

3665 (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
 3666 as necessary to administer this section.

3667 Section 61. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,
 3668 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3669 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

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

3676 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3677 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for
3678 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the
3679 administration of the collaboration grants program under this
3680 section.

3681 Section 62. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection
3682 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3683 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness
3684 program.—

3685 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the
3686 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an
3687 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are
3688 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
3689 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records
3690 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
3691 observations, and personal identifying information.

3692 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3693 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early
3694 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of
3695 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department
3696 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness
3697 program.

3698
3699 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school
3700 readiness program records in order to carry out their official

3701 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit
 3702 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school
 3703 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than
 3704 those authorized to receive the records.

3705 Section 63. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,
 3706 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3707 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards
 3708 and career pathways.—

3709 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3710 (a) Develop early learning professional development
 3711 training and course standards to be utilized for school
 3712 readiness program providers.

3713 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning
 3714 career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications
 3715 that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized
 3716 professional development that:

- 3717 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.
- 3718 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core
 3719 competencies.
- 3720 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based
 3721 stackable credentials and certifications.
- 3722 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten
 3723 readiness and early grade success.

3724 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
 3725 to administer this section.

3726 Section 64. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3727 to read:

3728 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of
 3729 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;
 3730 Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

3731 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate
 3732 articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20
 3733 ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening
 3734 relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,
 3735 between public and private organizations, and between the
 3736 education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The
 3737 purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these
 3738 relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective
 3739 progression and transfer of students within the education system
 3740 and to allow students to proceed toward their educational
 3741 objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The
 3742 Legislature further intends that articulation policies and
 3743 budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of
 3744 the Department of Education and postsecondary educational
 3745 institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts
 3746 of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

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

3751 of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System
3752 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The
3753 policies shall relate to:

3754 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one
3755 education system and the admissions requirements of another
3756 education system into which students typically transfer.

3757 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of
3758 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course
3759 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such
3760 institutions.

3761 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education
3762 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public
3763 postsecondary educational institutions.

3764 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3765 (e) Articulation agreements.

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

3776 College System, public career and technical education, K-12
3777 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member
3778 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the
3779 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
3780 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3781 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of
3782 one education system and the admissions requirements of another
3783 education system into which students typically transfer and make
3784 recommendations for improvement.

3785 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements
3786 between and among public schools, career and technical education
3787 centers, Florida College System institutions, state
3788 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3789 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high
3790 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State
3791 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3792 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement
3793 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3794 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,
3795 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit
3796 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions
3797 participating in the statewide course numbering system and
3798 identify instances of student transfer and admissions
3799 difficulties.

3800 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common

3801 general education and common degree program prerequisite
 3802 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified
 3803 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3804 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide
 3805 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
 3806 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and
 3807 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,
 3808 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3809 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public
 3810 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide
 3811 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant
 3812 to s. 1006.735.

3813 Section 65. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is
 3814 created to read:

3815 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring
 3816 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 3817 Program through grade 3.-

3818 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and
 3819 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary
 3820 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide
 3821 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate
 3822 grade-level standards and to provide information on their
 3823 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program
 3824 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten
 3825 Education Program providers and school districts to improve

3826 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning
3827 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and
3828 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,
3829 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure
3830 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress
3831 monitoring program must:

3832 (a) Measure student progress in the Voluntary
3833 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the
3834 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and
3835 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.
3836 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.

3837 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary
3838 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3839 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each
3840 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on
3841 each kindergarten students progress monitoring results that was
3842 administered no later than the first 30 instructional days in
3843 accordance with paragraph (2)(a). The methodology for
3844 determining a student's readiness for kindergarten shall be
3845 developed by the same independent expert identified in s.
3846 1002.68(4)(d).

3847 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
3848 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3849 through grade 3.

3850 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to

3851 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.
3852 1008.25(4).

3853 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular
3854 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state
3855 levels.

3856 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and
3857 development of educational programs and policies, and supports
3858 for providers, schools, and districts.

3859 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a
3860 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress
3861 monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics
3862 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards
3863 established in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, respectively. The
3864 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must
3865 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures
3866 equivalent levels of growth; be and adaptive and developmentally
3867 appropriate, valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to
3868 capture data on students who may be performing below grade or
3869 developmental level and which may enable the identification of
3870 early indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays;
3871 accurately measure the core content in the applicable grade
3872 level standards; document learning gains for the achievement of
3873 these standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring
3874 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction
3875 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated

3876 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all
3877 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
3878 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The
3879 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be
3880 implemented beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Voluntary
3881 Prekindergarten Education Program providers and public schools
3882 must participate in the screening and progress monitoring
3883 system, as follows:

3884 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3885 program shall be administered to students occurring no later
3886 than the first 30 instructional days of the program or school
3887 year, midyear, and within the last 30 instructional days of the
3888 program or school year, pursuant to state board rule. The state
3889 board may adopt alternate timeframes to address nontraditional
3890 school year calendars or summer programs to ensure
3891 administration of the coordinated screening and progress
3892 monitoring program is administered a minimum of 3 times within a
3893 year or program.

3894 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress
3895 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in
3896 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and
3897 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3898 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3899 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Council for
3900 Early Grade Success, for implementing the coordinated screening

3901 and progress monitoring program in consideration of timelines
3902 for implementing new early literacy and mathematics skills and
3903 the English Language Arts and mathematics standards established
3904 in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3905 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to
3906 the Council for Early Grade Success.

3907 (4) The Council for Early Grade Success, a council defined
3908 in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of Education to
3909 oversee the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3910 program and, except as otherwise provided in this section, shall
3911 operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3912 (a) The council shall be responsible for reviewing the
3913 implementation of, training for, administration of, and outcomes
3914 from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program
3915 to provide recommendations to the department that supports grade
3916 3 students reading at or above grade level. The council, at a
3917 minimum, shall:

3918 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the
3919 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including
3920 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria
3921 before being published.

3922 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

3923 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and
3924 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated
3925 screening and progress monitoring program.

3926 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a
3927 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under
3928 s. 1002.68.

3929 5. Work with the department's independent expert under s.
3930 1002.68(4)(d) to review the methodology for determining a
3931 child's kindergarten readiness.

3932 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade
3933 level that a student would need to attain in order to
3934 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

3935 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of
3936 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for
3937 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3938 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department
3939 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read
3940 at or above grade level.

3941 (b) The council shall be composed of 17 members who are
3942 residents of the state and appointed as follows:

3943 1. Three members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

3944 a. One representative from the Department of Education.

3945 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.

3946 c. One representative that is an elementary school
3947 administrator.

3948 2. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate,
3949 as follows:

3950 a. One senator who serves at the pleasure of the President

3951 of the Senate.

3952 b. One representative of an urban school district.

3953 c. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.

3954 d. One representative of a faith-based early learning

3955 provider who offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

3956 Program.

3957 e. One representative who is a second grade teacher who

3958 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.

3959 f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in

3960 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments.

3961 3. Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of

3962 Representatives, as follows:

3963 a. One member of the House of Representatives who serves

3964 at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House.

3965 b. One representative of a rural school district.

3966 c. One representative of an urban early learning

3967 coalition.

3968 d. One representative of an early learning provider who

3969 offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

3970 e. One member who is a kindergarten teacher who has at

3971 least 5 years of teaching experience.

3972 f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in

3973 early learning, early grade success, or child assessment.

3974 4. The four representatives with subject matter expertise

3975 in sub-sub-paragraphs 2.f. and 3.f. may not be direct

3976 stakeholders within the early learning or public school systems.

3977 (5) The council shall elect a chair and vice chair, one of
3978 whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in early
3979 learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The vice
3980 chair must be a member appointed by the President of the Senate
3981 or the Speaker of the House of Representatives who is not one of
3982 the four members with subject matter expertise in early
3983 learning, early grade success, or child assessments appointed
3984 pursuant to sub-sub-paragraphs (4)(b)2.f. and (4)(b)3.f. Members
3985 of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled
3986 to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
3987 112.061.

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

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

3992 Section 66. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of
3993 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
3994 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of
3995 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection
3996 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection
3997 (5) of that section, to read:

3998 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
3999 support; reporting requirements.—

4000 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

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

4012 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

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

4026 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less
4027 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other
4028 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a
4029 school in the United States.

4030 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education
4031 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment
4032 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of
4033 s. 1008.212.

4034 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of
4035 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English
4036 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of
4037 Education.

4038 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio
4039 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the
4040 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

4041 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,
4042 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an
4043 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects
4044 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading
4045 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still
4046 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in
4047 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

4048 6. Students who have received intensive reading
4049 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a
4050 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in

4051 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2
4052 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

4053 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE
4054 STUDENTS.—

4055 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5)(c) ~~(5)(b)~~ must
4056 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the
4057 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student
4058 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must
4059 include:

4060 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory
4061 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
4062 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by
4063 the school district.

4064 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading
4065 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention
4066 strategies under subparagraph 1.

4067 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading
4068 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention
4069 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

4070 a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social
4071 studies within the 90-minute block.

4072 b. Small group instruction.

4073 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4074 d. More frequent progress monitoring.

4075 e. Tutoring or mentoring.

4076 f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade
4077 students.

4078 g. Extended school day, week, or year.

4079 (b) Each school district shall:

4080 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student
4081 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her
4082 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion
4083 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause
4084 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must
4085 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a
4086 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be
4087 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of
4088 reading deficiency.

4089 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a
4090 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can
4091 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent
4092 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,
4093 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,
4094 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.
4095 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student
4096 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative
4097 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of
4098 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the
4099 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels
4100 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning

4101 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education
4102 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation
4103 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate
4104 grade 4 level reading skills.

4105 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph
4106 (5)(c) ~~(5)(b)~~, including students participating in the school
4107 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a
4108 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's
4109 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,
4110 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4111 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive
4112 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3
4113 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade
4114 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the
4115 following:

4116 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of
4117 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the
4118 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core
4119 subject areas through content-rich texts.

4120 b. Small group instruction.

4121 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.

4122 d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory
4123 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,
4124 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language
4125 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating

4126 student reading achievement within the same school year.

4127 e. A read-at-home plan.

4128 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4129 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5) (c)

4130 ~~(5) (b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the

4131 parent of each student the progress of the student toward

4132 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in

4133 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.

4134 The district school board must report to the parent the

4135 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.

4136 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the

4137 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and

4138 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided

4139 under paragraph (5) (a), and other relevant information. Progress

4140 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format

4141 adopted by the district school board.

4142 Section 67. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended

4143 to read:

4144 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education

4145 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,

4146 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

4147 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the

4148 Legislature that:

4149 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to

4150 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20

4151 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following
4152 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4153 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it
4154 invests in education?

4155 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
4156 education system educating its students?

4157 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors
4158 promoting student achievement?

4159 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education
4160 institutions performing their responsibility to educate their
4161 students as measured by how students are performing and how much
4162 they are learning?

4163 (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance
4164 accountability system be established as a single, unified
4165 accountability system with multiple components, including, but
4166 not limited to, student performance in public schools and school
4167 and district grades.

4168 (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system
4169 comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of
4170 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with
4171 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4172 (d) The early learning accountability system comply with
4173 the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the
4174 requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust
4175 Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4176 (e)~~(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of
4177 Governors of the State University System recommend to the
4178 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature
4179 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the
4180 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with
4181 information on what the public is receiving in return for the
4182 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20
4183 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4184 (f) 1.~~(e) 1.~~ The State Board of Education establish
4185 performance measures and set performance standards for
4186 individual public schools and Florida College System
4187 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on
4188 student achievement.

4189 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System
4190 establish performance measures and set performance standards for
4191 individual state universities, including actual completion
4192 rates.

4193 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4194 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
4195 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all
4196 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them
4197 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through
4198 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,
4199 and communities.

4200 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific

4201 standards and measures must be:
 4202 1. Focused on student success.
 4203 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
 4204 3. Efficient and of high quality.
 4205 4. Measurable over time.
 4206 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
 4207 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to
 4208 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4209 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an
 4210 accountability system that measures student progress toward the
 4211 following goals:

- 4212 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence
 4213 of student learning gains at all levels.
- 4214 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured
 4215 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted
 4216 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4217 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured
 4218 by evidence of employment and earnings.
- 4219 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of
 4220 return on investment.
- 4221 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4222 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide
 4223 data required to implement education performance accountability
 4224 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education
 4225 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality

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

4236 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational
4237 institutions shall maintain information systems that will
4238 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of
4239 the State University System, and the Legislature with
4240 information and reports necessary to address the specifications
4241 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and
4242 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June
4243 30, 2001.

4244 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in
4245 the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
4246 Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the
4247 prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format
4248 prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data
4249 from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer
4250 rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and

4251 placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each
 4252 year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph
 4253 shall report the data to the department.

4254 (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
 4255 standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and
 4256 measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to
 4257 the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the
 4258 State University System, the President of the Senate, and the
 4259 Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators
 4260 and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary
 4261 educational institutions.

4262 (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data
 4263 collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing
 4264 data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize
 4265 paperwork.

4266 (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 4267 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
 4268 provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data
 4269 warehouse.

4270 Section 68. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended
 4271 to read:

4272 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement
 4273 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the
 4274 performance of early learning coalitions, district school
 4275 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of

4276 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school
4277 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees
4278 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state
4279 board rule.

4280 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board
4281 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to
4282 request and receive information, data, and reports from early
4283 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College
4284 System institutions. Early learning coalition chief executive
4285 officers or executive directors, district school
4286 superintendents, and Florida College System institution
4287 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information
4288 and data reported to the state board.

4289 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate
4290 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and
4291 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report
4292 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education
4293 which shall require the early learning coalition, district
4294 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
4295 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4296 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the
4297 State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General
4298 that an early learning coalition, a district school board, or
4299 Florida College System institution is acting without statutory
4300 authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of

4301 Education shall require the early learning coalition, district
 4302 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
 4303 trustees to document compliance with such law.

4304 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school
 4305 board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees
 4306 cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of
 4307 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4308 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an
 4309 early learning coalition, ~~a~~ district school board, or Florida
 4310 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or
 4311 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the
 4312 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to
 4313 initiate any of the following actions:

4314 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning
 4315 coalition, school district, or Florida College System
 4316 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state
 4317 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4318 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary
 4319 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds
 4320 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until
 4321 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida
 4322 College System institution complies with the law or state board
 4323 rule.

4324 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,
 4325 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive

4326 grants.

4327 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation
4328 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4329 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a
4330 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or
4331 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4332 Section 69. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
4333 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4334 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4335 (3)(a) The academic performance of all students has a
4336 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.
4337 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the
4338 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school
4339 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the
4340 accountability requirements of the state school system and may
4341 impose state requirements on school districts in order to
4342 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and
4343 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early
4344 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal
4345 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility
4346 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of
4347 Education.

4348 Section 70. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida
4349 Statutes, is amended to read:

4350 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual

4351 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
4352 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
4353 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
4354 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
4355 follows:

4356 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4357 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is
4358 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students
4359 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who
4360 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4361 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s.
4362 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the
4363 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year
4364 average of the state reading assessment data must use the
4365 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour
4366 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in
4367 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the
4368 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a
4369 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English
4370 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may
4371 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional
4372 student education centers may not be included in the 300
4373 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this
4374 additional hour shall include: research-based reading
4375 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of

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

4385 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading
4386 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district
4387 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each
4388 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount
4389 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any
4390 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school
4391 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of
4392 K-12 base funding.

4393 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to
4394 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to
4395 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who
4396 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4397 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
4398 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4399 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive
4400 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing

4401 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have
4402 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in
4403 paragraph (a).

4404 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based reading
4405 ~~intervention teachers to provide~~ reading interventions
4406 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during
4407 the school day and in the required extra hour for students
4408 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4409 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically
4410 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on
4411 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading
4412 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas
4413 based on student need.

4414 4. Professional development for school district teachers
4415 in scientifically based reading instruction, including
4416 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an
4417 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school
4418 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in
4419 reading.

4420 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other
4421 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading
4422 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in
4423 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading
4424 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~
4425 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the

4426 | statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and
 4427 | certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early
 4428 | literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 4429 | Program under s. 1008.25(5) (b).

4430 | 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based
 4431 | supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~
 4432 | ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just
 4433 | Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4434 | 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in
 4435 | kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having
 4436 | a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as
 4437 | determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts
 4438 | assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial
 4439 | deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary
 4440 | Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1008.25(5) (b).

4441 | (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
 4442 | Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~
 4443 | comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
 4444 | based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by
 4445 | the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
 4446 | Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
 4447 | annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
 4448 | unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
 4449 | school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach
 4450 | agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may

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

4475 2. Each school district that has a school designated as

4476 | one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified
4477 | in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the
4478 | comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the
4479 | comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and
4480 | reading intervention strategies that will be used for the
4481 | required additional hour of reading instruction. The term
4482 | "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies
4483 | frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also
4484 | includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use
4485 | of technology that targets specific reading skills and
4486 | abilities.

4487 |
4488 | For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means
4489 | demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving
4490 | student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4491 | Section 71. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.