

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 | requiring students enrolled in the Voluntary
49 | Prekindergarten Education Program to participate in a
50 | specified screening and progress monitoring program;

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

76 | s. 1002.61, F.S.; authorizing certain child
77 | development programs operating on a military
78 | installment to be private prekindergarten providers
79 | within the summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
80 | Program; revising the criteria for a teacher to
81 | receive priority for the summer program in school
82 | district; requiring a child development program
83 | operating on a military installment to comply with
84 | specified criteria; requiring early learning
85 | coalitions to verify specified information; providing
86 | for the removal of a program provider or school from
87 | eligibility under certain circumstances; amending s.
88 | 1002.63, F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to
89 | verify specified information; providing for the
90 | removal of public school program providers from the
91 | program under certain circumstances; amending s.
92 | 1002.67, F.S.; revising the performance standards for
93 | the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
94 | requiring the department to review and revise
95 | performance standards on a specified schedule;
96 | revising curriculum requirements for the program;
97 | requiring the department to adopt procedures for the
98 | review and approval of curricula for the program;
99 | deleting a required preassessment and postassessment
100 | for the program; creating s. 1002.68, F.S.; requiring

101 providers of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
102 Program to participate in a specified screening and
103 progress monitoring program; providing specified uses
104 for the results of such program; requiring certain
105 portions of the screening and progress monitoring
106 program to be administered by individuals who meet
107 specified criteria; requiring the results of specified
108 assessments to be reported to the parents of
109 participating students; providing requirements for
110 such assessments; providing department duties and
111 responsibilities relating to such assessments;
112 providing requirements for a specified methodology
113 used to calculate the results of such assessments;
114 providing that certain providers cannot be placed on
115 probation during a certain program year; requiring a
116 provider on probationary status to meet certain
117 requirements before being removed from such status;
118 requiring the department to establish a designation
119 system for program providers; providing for the
120 adoption of a minimum performance metric or
121 designation for program participation; providing
122 procedures for a provider whose score or designation
123 falls below the minimum requirement; providing for the
124 revocation of program eligibility for a provider;
125 providing procedures for requalification; authorizing

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

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

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

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

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

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

20.055 Agency inspectors general.—

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

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

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

Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (j) of subsection (3) of

251 section 20.15, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs
252 (d) through (k), respectively, present paragraph (i) of
253 subsection (3) and subsection (5) are amended, and a new
254 paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to
255 read:

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

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

260 (c) Division of Early Learning.

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

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

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

272 (5) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The State Board of Education and
273 the Commissioner of Education shall assign to the divisions such
274 powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions as are necessary
275 to ensure the greatest possible coordination, efficiency, and

276 effectiveness of education for students in Early Learning-20 ~~K-~~
 277 ~~20~~ education under the jurisdiction of the State Board of
 278 Education.

279 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 280 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

301 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential
302 group homes; or

303 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided
304 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
305 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.
306

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

310 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
311 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

333 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (5) of section
 334 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

341 (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.—

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

351 health insurance" shall be defined and promulgated in rules
 352 developed jointly by the Department of Education ~~Children and~~
 353 ~~Families~~, the Agency for Health Care Administration, and the
 354 Financial Services Commission.

355 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section
 356 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

359 (8) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

424 (2) RULES.—

425 (b) After consultation with the Department of Education

426 ~~Office of Early Learning~~, the department shall adopt and enforce
427 rules requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for
428 environmental risk factors that place children and their
429 families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other
430 negative outcomes.

431 Section 8. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section
432 391.308, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

451 local program offices. Such agreements may be formal or
452 informal.

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

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

461 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

462 ~~(6) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care~~
463 ~~facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305 or a child care~~
464 ~~facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316, that~~
465 ~~achieves Gold Seal Quality status pursuant to s. 402.281, be~~
466 ~~considered an educational institution for the purpose of~~
467 ~~qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax pursuant to s.~~
468 ~~196.198.~~

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

472 1002.945 ~~402.281~~ Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

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

475 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home,

476 or family day care home that is accredited by an accrediting
 477 association approved by the Department of Education under
 478 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon
 479 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal
 480 Quality Care" designation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

547 (c) If an accrediting association has granted
548 accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care
549 home, or family day care under fraudulent terms or failed to
550 conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

599 (5) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a
600 child care facility exempt from licensing under s. 402.316 which

601 achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section shall be
602 considered an educational institution for the purpose of
603 qualifying for exemption from ad valorem tax under s. 196.198.

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

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

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

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

626 Education.

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

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

637 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

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

643 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 644 402.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

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

- 649 (a)1. The Secretary of Children and Families;
 650 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;

- 651 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with
 652 Disabilities;
- 653 4. A representative from the Division ~~The director of the~~
 654 ~~Office~~ of Early Learning;
- 655 5. The State Surgeon General;
- 656 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;
- 657 7. The Commissioner of Education;
- 658 8. The director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office;
- 659 9. A representative of the Office of Adoption and Child
 660 Protection;
- 661 10. A superintendent of schools, appointed by the
 662 Governor; and
- 663 11. Five members who represent children and youth advocacy
 664 organizations and who are not service providers, appointed by
 665 the Governor.
- 666 Section 14. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1), paragraph (a)
 667 of subsection (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of
 668 section 411.227, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 669 411.227 Components of the Learning Gateway.—The Learning
 670 Gateway system consists of the following components:
- 671 (1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FAMILY-ORIENTED
 672 ACCESS.—
- 673 (d) In collaboration with other local resources, the
 674 demonstration projects shall develop public awareness strategies
 675 to disseminate information about developmental milestones,

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

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

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

701 information on state and district proficiency levels for grades
702 K-3.

703 (2) SCREENING AND DEVELOPMENTAL MONITORING.—

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

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

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

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

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

725 (1) Personal identifying information of a temporary cash

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

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

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

750 (c) An investigation, prosecution, or criminal, civil, or

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

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

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

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

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

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

776 Section 16. Section 1000.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
 777 to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

825 (c) A system that maximizes education access and allows

826 the opportunity for a high quality education for all Floridians.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

850 (c) The Board of Governors shall oversee the enforcement

851 of all state university laws and rules and regulations and the
852 timely provision of direction, resources, assistance,
853 intervention when needed, and strong incentives and
854 disincentives to force accountability for results.

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

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

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

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

876 demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels,
 877 graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter
 878 postsecondary education without remediation.

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

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

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

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

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

896 (g) Parental, student, family, educational institution,
 897 and community involvement.—Parents, students, families,
 898 educational institutions, and communities are collaborative
 899 partners in education, and each plays an important role in the
 900 success of individual students. Therefore, the State of Florida

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

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

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

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

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

922

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

926 Section 19. Section 1000.04, Florida Statutes, is amended
 927 to read:

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

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

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

948 (3)~~(2)~~ PUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—
 949 Public postsecondary educational institutions include workforce
 950 education; Florida College System institutions; state

951 universities; and all other state-supported postsecondary
 952 educational institutions that are authorized and established by
 953 law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

976 College System and any branch campuses, centers, or other
 977 affiliates of the institution:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

999 (l) Florida Gateway College, which serves Baker, Columbia,
 1000 Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties.

- 1001 (m) Lake-Sumter State College, which serves Lake and
- 1002 Sumter Counties.
- 1003 (n) State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, which
- 1004 serves Manatee and Sarasota Counties.
- 1005 (o) Miami Dade College, which serves Miami-Dade County.
- 1006 (p) North Florida College, which serves Hamilton,
- 1007 Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties.
- 1008 (q) Northwest Florida State College, which serves Okaloosa
- 1009 and Walton Counties.
- 1010 (r) Palm Beach State College, which serves Palm Beach
- 1011 County.
- 1012 (s) Pasco-Hernando State College, which serves Hernando
- 1013 and Pasco Counties.
- 1014 (t) Pensacola State College, which serves Escambia and
- 1015 Santa Rosa Counties.
- 1016 (u) Polk State College, which serves Polk County.
- 1017 (v) St. Johns River State College, which serves Clay,
- 1018 Putnam, and St. Johns Counties.
- 1019 (w) St. Petersburg College, which serves Pinellas County.
- 1020 (x) Santa Fe College, which serves Alachua and Bradford
- 1021 Counties.
- 1022 (y) Seminole State College of Florida, which serves
- 1023 Seminole County.
- 1024 (z) South Florida State College, which serves DeSoto,
- 1025 Hardee, and Highlands Counties.

- 1026 (aa) Tallahassee Community College, which serves Gadsden,
 1027 Leon, and Wakulla Counties.
- 1028 (bb) Valencia College, which serves Orange and Osceola
 1029 Counties.
- 1030 (4) "Department" is the Department of Education.
- 1031 (5) "Parent" is either or both parents of a student, any
 1032 guardian of a student, any person in a parental relationship to
 1033 a student, or any person exercising supervisory authority over a
 1034 student in place of the parent.
- 1035 (6) "State university," except as otherwise specifically
 1036 provided, includes the following institutions and any branch
 1037 campuses, centers, or other affiliates of the institution:
- 1038 (a) The University of Florida.
- 1039 (b) The Florida State University.
- 1040 (c) The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.
- 1041 (d) The University of South Florida.
- 1042 (e) The Florida Atlantic University.
- 1043 (f) The University of West Florida.
- 1044 (g) The University of Central Florida.
- 1045 (h) The University of North Florida.
- 1046 (i) The Florida International University.
- 1047 (j) The Florida Gulf Coast University.
- 1048 (k) New College of Florida.
- 1049 (l) The Florida Polytechnic University.
- 1050 (7) "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" means the

1051 state's public K-12 curricular standards adopted under s.
 1052 1003.41.

1053 (8) "Board of Governors" is the Board of Governors of the
 1054 State University System.

1055 Section 21. Subsection (1) and paragraphs (e) and (s) of
 1056 subsection (2) of section 1001.02, Florida Statutes, are amended
 1057 to read:

1058 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.—

1059 (1) The State Board of Education is the chief implementing
 1060 and coordinating body of public education in Florida except for
 1061 the State University System, and it shall focus on high-level
 1062 policy decisions. It has authority to adopt rules pursuant to
 1063 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the provisions of law
 1064 conferring duties upon it for the improvement of the state
 1065 system of Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public education except for the
 1066 State University System. Except as otherwise provided herein, it
 1067 may, as it finds appropriate, delegate its general powers to the
 1068 Commissioner of Education or the directors of the divisions of
 1069 the department.

1070 (2) The State Board of Education has the following duties:

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

1076 | the Commissioner of Education, and all of the boards,
 1077 | institutions, agencies, and services under the general
 1078 | supervision of the Board of Governors, as provided in s.
 1079 | 1001.706, or the State Board of Education for the ensuing fiscal
 1080 | year. The State Board of Education may not amend the budget
 1081 | request submitted by the Board of Governors. Any program
 1082 | recommended by the Board of Governors or the State Board of
 1083 | Education which will require increases in state funding for more
 1084 | than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1085 | (s) To establish a detailed procedure for the
 1086 | implementation and operation of a systemwide ~~K-20~~ technology
 1087 | plan that is based on a common set of data definitions.

1088 | Section 22. Subsections (8) and (9) of section 1001.03,
 1089 | Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1090 | 1001.03 Specific powers of State Board of Education.—

1091 | (8) SYSTEMWIDE ENFORCEMENT.—The State Board of Education
 1092 | shall enforce compliance with law and state board rule by all
 1093 | school districts, early learning coalitions, and public
 1094 | postsecondary educational institutions, except for the State
 1095 | University System, in accordance with the provisions of s.
 1096 | 1008.32.

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

1101 state universities, and all other components of the public Early
 1102 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system as such databases existed on
 1103 June 30, 2002.

1104 Section 23. Subsection (1), paragraphs (g), (k), and (l)
 1105 of subsection (6), and subsection (8) of section 1001.10,
 1106 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1107 1001.10 Commissioner of Education; general powers and
 1108 duties.-

1109 (1) The Commissioner of Education is the chief educational
 1110 officer of the state and the sole custodian of the educational
 1111 ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, and is responsible for giving full
 1112 assistance to the State Board of Education in enforcing
 1113 compliance with the mission and goals of the Early Learning ~~K-20~~
 1114 education system, except for the State University System.

1115 (6) Additionally, the commissioner has the following
 1116 general powers and duties:

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

1126 of Education that will require increases in state funding for
1127 more than 1 year must be presented in a multiyear budget plan.

1128 (k) To prepare, publish, and disseminate user-friendly
1129 materials relating to the state's education system, including
1130 the state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness
1131 program, and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1132 (l) To prepare and publish annually reports giving
1133 statistics and other useful information pertaining to the
1134 state's K-12 scholarship programs, the school readiness program,
1135 and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1136 (8) In the event of an emergency situation, the
1137 commissioner may coordinate through the most appropriate means
1138 of communication with early learning coalitions, local school
1139 districts, Florida College System institutions, and satellite
1140 offices of the Division of Blind Services and the Division of
1141 Vocational Rehabilitation to assess the need for resources and
1142 assistance to enable each school, institution, or satellite
1143 office the ability to reopen as soon as possible after
1144 considering the health, safety, and welfare of students and
1145 clients.

1146 Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection
1147 (4) of section 1001.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1148 1001.11 Commissioner of Education; other duties.—

1149 (1) The Commissioner of Education must independently
1150 perform the following duties:

1151 (b) Serve as the primary source of information to the
 1152 Legislature, including the President of the Senate and the
 1153 Speaker of the House of Representatives, concerning the State
 1154 Board of Education, the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system,
 1155 and early learning programs.

1156 (4) The commissioner shall develop and implement an
 1157 integrated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ information system for
 1158 educational management in accordance with the requirements of
 1159 chapter 1008.

1160 Section 25. Section 1001.213, Florida Statutes, is
 1161 repealed.

1162 Section 26. Subsection (7) of section 1001.215, Florida
 1163 Statutes, is amended to read:

1164 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in
 1165 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The
 1166 office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education and
 1167 shall:

1168 (7) Review, evaluate, and provide technical assistance to
 1169 school districts' implementation of the ~~K-12~~ comprehensive
 1170 reading plan required in s. 1011.62(9).

1171 Section 27. Subsection (1) of section 1001.23, Florida
 1172 Statutes, is amended to read:

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

1176 shall:

1177 ~~(1) Adopt the statewide kindergarten screening in~~
 1178 ~~accordance with s. 1002.69.~~

1179 Section 28. Subsection (3) of section 1001.70, Florida
 1180 Statutes, is amended to read:

1181 1001.70 Board of Governors of the State University
 1182 System.—

1183 (3) The Board of Governors, in exercising its authority
 1184 under the State Constitution and statutes, shall exercise its
 1185 authority in a manner that supports, promotes, and enhances an
 1186 Early Learning-20 ~~a K-20~~ education system that provides
 1187 affordable access to postsecondary educational opportunities for
 1188 residents of the state to the extent authorized by the State
 1189 Constitution and state law.

1190 Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
 1191 1001.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1192 1001.706 Powers and duties of the Board of Governors.—

1193 (4) POWERS AND DUTIES RELATING TO FINANCE.—

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

1201 budget requests.

1202 Section 30. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
1203 1002.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1204 1002.22 Education records and reports of K-12 students;
1205 rights of parents and students; notification; penalty.—

1206 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

1207 (b) "Institution" means any public school, center,
1208 institution, or other entity that is part of Florida's education
1209 system under s. 1000.04(2), (4), and (5) ~~s. 1000.04(1), (3), and~~
1210 ~~(4)~~.

1211 Section 31. Subsections (3) and (10) of section 1002.32,
1212 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1213 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.—

1214 (3) MISSION.—The mission of a lab school shall be the
1215 provision of a vehicle for the conduct of research,
1216 demonstration, and evaluation regarding management, teaching,
1217 and learning. Programs to achieve the mission of a lab school
1218 shall embody the goals and standards established pursuant to ss.
1219 1000.03(5) and 1001.23(1) ~~1001.23(2)~~ and shall ensure an
1220 appropriate education for its students.

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

1226 nonspecialized subjects. Each lab school shall provide
1227 sequential elementary and secondary instruction where
1228 appropriate. A lab school may not provide instruction at grade
1229 levels higher than grade 12 without authorization from the State
1230 Board of Education. Each lab school shall develop and implement
1231 a school improvement plan pursuant to s. 1003.02(3).

1232 (b) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1233 lab school may be generated by the college of education and
1234 other colleges within the university with which the school is
1235 affiliated.

1236 (c) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1237 lab school may be generated by the State Board of Education.
1238 Such research shall respond to the needs of the education
1239 community at large, rather than the specific needs of the
1240 affiliated college.

1241 (d) Research, demonstration, and evaluation conducted at a
1242 lab school may consist of pilot projects to be generated by the
1243 affiliated college, the State Board of Education, or the
1244 Legislature.

1245 (e) The exceptional education programs offered at a lab
1246 school shall be determined by the research and evaluation goals
1247 and the availability of students for efficiently sized programs.
1248 The fact that a lab school offers an exceptional education
1249 program in no way lessens the general responsibility of the
1250 local school district to provide exceptional education programs.

1251 (10) EXCEPTIONS TO LAW.—To encourage innovative practices
 1252 and facilitate the mission of the lab schools, in addition to
 1253 the exceptions to law specified in s. 1001.23(1) ~~s. 1001.23(2)~~,
 1254 the following exceptions shall be permitted for lab schools:

1255 (a) The methods and requirements of the following statutes
 1256 shall be held in abeyance: ss. 316.75; 1001.30; 1001.31;
 1257 1001.32; 1001.33; 1001.34; 1001.35; 1001.36; 1001.361; 1001.362;
 1258 1001.363; 1001.37; 1001.371; 1001.372; 1001.38; 1001.39;
 1259 1001.395; 1001.40; 1001.41; 1001.44; 1001.453; 1001.46;
 1260 1001.461; 1001.462; 1001.463; 1001.464; 1001.47; 1001.48;
 1261 1001.49; 1001.50; 1001.51; 1006.12(2); 1006.21(3), (4); 1006.23;
 1262 1010.07(2); 1010.40; 1010.41; 1010.42; 1010.43; 1010.44;
 1263 1010.45; 1010.46; 1010.47; 1010.48; 1010.49; 1010.50; 1010.51;
 1264 1010.52; 1010.53; 1010.54; 1010.55; 1011.02(1)-(3), (5);
 1265 1011.04; 1011.20; 1011.21; 1011.22; 1011.23; 1011.71; 1011.72;
 1266 1011.73; and 1011.74.

1267 (b) With the exception of s. 1001.42(18), s. 1001.42 shall
 1268 be held in abeyance. Reference to district school boards in s.
 1269 1001.42(18) shall mean the president of the university or the
 1270 president's designee.

1271 Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (10) of section
 1272 1002.34, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1273 1002.34 Charter technical career centers.—

1274 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—

1275 (b) A center must comply with the Florida Early Learning-

1276 | 20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code with respect to providing services to
 1277 | students with disabilities.

1278 | Section 33. Subsection (1) of section 1002.36, Florida
 1279 | Statutes, is amended to read:

1280 | 1002.36 Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind.—

1281 | (1) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Florida School for the Deaf and
 1282 | the Blind, located in St. Johns County, is a state-supported
 1283 | residential public school for hearing-impaired and visually
 1284 | impaired students in preschool through 12th grade. The school is
 1285 | a component of the delivery of public education within Florida's
 1286 | Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system and shall be funded
 1287 | through the Department of Education. The school shall provide
 1288 | educational programs and support services appropriate to meet
 1289 | the education and related evaluation and counseling needs of
 1290 | hearing-impaired and visually impaired students in the state who
 1291 | meet enrollment criteria. Unless otherwise provided by law, the
 1292 | school shall comply with all laws and rules applicable to state
 1293 | agencies. Education services may be provided on an outreach
 1294 | basis for sensory-impaired children ages 0 through 5 years and
 1295 | to district school boards upon request. Graduates of the Florida
 1296 | School for the Deaf and the Blind shall be eligible for the
 1297 | William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education Grant
 1298 | Program as provided in s. 1009.89.

1299 | Section 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and subsection
 1300 | (5) of section 1002.53, Florida Statutes, are amended, and

1301 paragraph (d) is added to subsection (6) of that section, to
1302 read:

1303 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
1304 eligibility and enrollment.—

1305 (4)

1306 (b) The application must be submitted on forms prescribed
1307 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ and must be
1308 accompanied by a certified copy of the child's birth
1309 certificate. The forms must include a certification, in
1310 substantially the form provided in s. 1002.71(6)(b)2., that the
1311 parent chooses the private prekindergarten provider or public
1312 school in accordance with this section and directs that payments
1313 for the program be made to the provider or school. The
1314 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ may authorize alternative
1315 methods for submitting proof of the child's age in lieu of a
1316 certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

1317 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent
1318 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1319 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider
1320 and public school delivering the program within the county where
1321 the child is being enrolled. The profiles shall be provided to
1322 parents in a format prescribed by the department in accordance
1323 with s. 1002.92(3) ~~Office of Early Learning~~. ~~The profiles must~~
1324 ~~include, at a minimum, the following information about each~~
1325 ~~provider and school:~~

1326 ~~(a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,~~
1327 ~~instructor credentials, and instructor to student ratio; and~~

1328 ~~(b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate~~
1329 ~~calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most~~
1330 ~~recent available results of the statewide kindergarten~~
1331 ~~screening.~~

1332 (6)

1333 (d) Each parent who enrolls his or her child in the
1334 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must allow his or
1335 her child to participate in the coordinated screening and
1336 progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125.

1337 Section 35. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i),
1338 (j), and (l) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and paragraph
1339 (b) of subsection (5) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are
1340 amended, and subsection (6) is added to that section, to read:

1341 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
1342 private prekindergarten providers.—

1343 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
1344 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
1345 following requirements:

1346 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
1347 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
1348 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
1349 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under
1350 s. 402.3025(2), ~~or~~ faith-based child care provider exempt from

1351 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is
1352 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1353 military installation that is certified by the United States
1354 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that
1355 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A
1356 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program
1357 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1358 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

1359 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a
1360 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,
1361 or the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools, or be
1362 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,
1363 or Western Association of Colleges and Schools, or North Central
1364 Association of Colleges and Schools, or Middle States
1365 Association of Colleges and Schools, or New England Association
1366 of Colleges and Schools; and have written accreditation
1367 standards that meet or exceed the state's licensing requirements
1368 under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s. 402.3131 and require at
1369 least one onsite visit to the provider or school before
1370 accreditation is granted;

1371 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under
1372 s. 1002.945 ~~s. 402.281~~; or

1373 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
1374 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary
1375 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early

1376 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the
 1377 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not
 1378 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background
 1379 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)
 1380 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),
 1381 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a
 1382 developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

1383 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for
 1384 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one
 1385 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following
 1386 requirements:

1387 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,
 1388 one of the following credentials:

1389 a. A child development associate credential issued by the
 1390 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
 1391 Recognition; or

1392 b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and
 1393 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential
 1394 described in sub-subparagraph a.

1395
 1396 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under
 1397 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures
 1398 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

1399 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully
 1400 complete three ~~an~~ emergent literacy training courses that

1401 include developmentally appropriate and experiential learning
1402 practices for children ~~course~~ and a student performance
1403 standards training course approved by the department ~~office~~ as
1404 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.
1405 1002.59. The prekindergarten instructor must complete an
1406 emergent literacy training course at least once every 5 years
1407 after initially completing the three emergent literacy training
1408 courses. The courses in this subparagraph must be recognized as
1409 part of the informal early learning and career pathway
1410 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). The
1411 requirement for completion of the standards training course
1412 shall take effect July 1, 2022. ~~2014,~~ The courses must ~~and the~~
1413 ~~course shall~~ be available online or in person.

1414 (e) A private prekindergarten provider may assign a
1415 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed
1416 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
1417 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1418 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1419 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1420 screening requirements in chapter 435. The department ~~Office of~~
1421 ~~Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph
1422 which shall include required qualifications of substitute
1423 instructors and the circumstances and time limits for which a
1424 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute
1425 instructor.

1426 (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a
1427 prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director
1428 credential that is approved by the department ~~office~~ as meeting
1429 or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. A
1430 private school administrator who holds a valid certificate in
1431 educational leadership issued by the department satisfies the
1432 requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under s.
1433 1002.57. Successful completion of a child care facility director
1434 credential under s. 402.305(2)(g) before the establishment of
1435 the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July
1436 1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a
1437 prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.

1438 (h) The private prekindergarten provider must register
1439 with the early learning coalition on forms prescribed by the
1440 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~.

1441 (i) The private prekindergarten provider must execute the
1442 statewide provider contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s.~~
1443 ~~1002.75~~, except that an individual who owns or operates multiple
1444 private prekindergarten sites ~~providers~~ within a coalition's
1445 service area may execute a single agreement with the coalition
1446 on behalf of each site ~~provider~~.

1447 (j) The private prekindergarten provider must maintain
1448 general liability insurance and provide the coalition with
1449 written evidence of general liability insurance coverage,
1450 including coverage for transportation of children if

1451 prekindergarten students are transported by the provider. A
1452 provider must obtain and retain an insurance policy that
1453 provides a minimum of \$100,000 of coverage per occurrence and a
1454 minimum of \$300,000 general aggregate coverage. The department
1455 ~~office~~ may authorize lower limits upon request, as appropriate.
1456 A provider must add the coalition as a named certificateholder
1457 and as an additional insured. A provider must provide the
1458 coalition with a minimum of 10 calendar days' advance written
1459 notice of cancellation of or changes to coverage. The general
1460 liability insurance required by this paragraph must remain in
1461 full force and effect for the entire period of the provider
1462 contract with the coalition.

1463 (l) Notwithstanding paragraph (j), for a private
1464 prekindergarten provider that is a state agency or a subdivision
1465 thereof, as defined in s. 768.28(2), the provider must agree to
1466 notify the coalition of any additional liability coverage
1467 maintained by the provider in addition to that otherwise
1468 established under s. 768.28. The provider shall indemnify the
1469 coalition to the extent permitted by s. 768.28. Notwithstanding
1470 paragraph (j), for a child development program that is
1471 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1472 military installation that is certified by the United States
1473 Department of Defense, the provider may demonstrate liability
1474 coverage by affirming that it is subject to the Federal Tort
1475 Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. s. 2671 et seq.

1476 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum
 1477 credentials ~~and courses~~ required under paragraph (3)(c), may
 1478 hold one of the following educational credentials:

1479 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood
 1480 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool
 1481 education, or family and consumer science;

1482 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,
 1483 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach
 1484 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of
 1485 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if
 1486 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school
 1487 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

1488 (c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;

1489 (d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,
 1490 at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child
 1491 development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or
 1492 providing child care services for children any age from birth
 1493 through 8 years of age; or

1494 (e) An educational credential approved by the department
 1495 as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential
 1496 described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria
 1497 and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials
 1498 under this paragraph.

1499 (5)

1500 (b) Notwithstanding any other ~~provision of~~ law, if a

1501 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
1502 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program
1503 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
1504 may refuse to contract with the provider.

1505 (6) Each early learning coalition must verify that each
1506 private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary
1507 Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county
1508 or multicounty region complies with this part. If a private
1509 prekindergarten provider fails or refuses to comply with this
1510 part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require the
1511 early learning coalition to remove the provider from eligibility
1512 to deliver the program and receive state funds under this part
1513 for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1514 Section 36. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2) of
1515 section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
1516 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, subsection (1) is amended,
1517 and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (2) of that
1518 section, to read:

1519 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

1520 (1) The department ~~office~~, in consultation with the
1521 Department of Children and Families, shall adopt minimum
1522 standards for a credential for prekindergarten directors of
1523 private prekindergarten providers delivering the Voluntary
1524 Prekindergarten Education Program. The credential must encompass
1525 requirements for education and onsite experience.

1526 (2) The educational requirements must include training in
 1527 the following:

1528 (b) Implementation of curriculum and usage of student-
 1529 level data to inform the delivery of instruction;

1530 Section 37. Section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1531 to read:

1532 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards
 1533 training courses.-

1534 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards
 1535 for ~~one or more training~~ courses in emergent literacy for
 1536 prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock
 1537 hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to
 1538 address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students
 1539 in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral
 1540 communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and
 1541 phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension
 1542 development. Each course must also provide resources containing
 1543 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other
 1544 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary
 1545 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an
 1546 emergent literacy training course approved under this section
 1547 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy
 1548 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6),
 1549 and 402.3131(5).

1550 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt minimum standards

1551 for ~~one or more training~~ courses on the performance standards
1552 adopted under s. 1002.67(1). Each course must be comprised of
1553 ~~comprise~~ at least 3 clock hours, provide instruction in
1554 strategies and techniques to address age-appropriate progress of
1555 each child in attaining the standards, and be available online.

1556 (3) The department shall make available online
1557 professional development and training courses comprised of at
1558 least 8 clock hours that support prekindergarten instructors in
1559 increasing the competency of teacher-child interactions.

1560 Section 38. Subsections (6) through (8) of section
1561 1002.61, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7)
1562 through (9), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (1),
1563 paragraph (b) of subsection (3), subsection (4), and present
1564 subsections (6) and (8) are amended, and new subsections (6) and
1565 (10) are added to that section, to read:

1566 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
1567 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

1568 (1)

1569 (b) Each early learning coalition shall administer the
1570 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program at the county or
1571 regional level for students enrolled under s. 1002.53(3)(b) in a
1572 summer prekindergarten program delivered by a private
1573 prekindergarten provider. A child development program that is
1574 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
1575 military installation that is certified by the United States

1576 Department of Defense may administer the summer prekindergarten
 1577 program as a private prekindergarten provider.

1578 (3)

1579 (b) Each public school delivering the summer
 1580 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
 1581 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the
 1582 school district may execute a single agreement with the early
 1583 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1584 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),
 1585 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must
 1586 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one
 1587 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds
 1588 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)
 1589 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"
 1590 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate
 1591 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the
 1592 district school board to instruct students in the summer
 1593 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for
 1594 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall
 1595 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in
 1596 early childhood education and have completed emergent literacy
 1597 and performance standards courses, as provided for in s.
 1598 1002.55(3)(c)2.

1599 (6) A child development program that is accredited by a
 1600 national accrediting body and operates on a military

1601 installation that is certified by the United States Department
1602 of Defense shall comply with the requirements of a private
1603 prekindergarten provider in this section.

1604 (7)~~(6)~~ A public school or private prekindergarten provider
1605 may assign a substitute instructor to temporarily replace a
1606 credentialed instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned
1607 to a prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
1608 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
1609 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
1610 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
1611 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
1612 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
1613 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
1614 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
1615 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
1616 circumstances and time limits for which a public school or
1617 private prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute
1618 instructor.

1619 (9)~~(8)~~ Each public school delivering the summer
1620 prekindergarten program must also register with the early
1621 learning coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office~~
1622 ~~of Early Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1623 Education Program in accordance with this part.

1624 (10) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
1625 each private prekindergarten provider and public school

1626 delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1627 within the coalition's county or multicounty region complies
1628 with this part.

1629 (b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1630 fails or refuses to comply with this part or engages in
1631 misconduct, the department shall require the early learning
1632 coalition to remove the provider and require the school district
1633 to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary
1634 Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state funds under
1635 this part for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5
1636 years.

1637 Section 39. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and
1638 subsections (6) and (8) of section 1002.63, Florida Statutes,
1639 are amended, and subsection (9) is added to that section, to
1640 read:

1641 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
1642 public schools.—

1643 (3)

1644 (b) Each public school delivering the school-year
1645 prekindergarten program must execute the statewide provider
1646 contract prescribed under s. 1002.73 ~~s. 1002.75~~, except that the
1647 school district may execute a single agreement with the early
1648 learning coalition on behalf of all district schools.

1649 (6) A public school prekindergarten provider may assign a
1650 substitute instructor to temporarily replace a credentialed

1651 instructor if the credentialed instructor assigned to a
 1652 prekindergarten class is absent, as long as the substitute
 1653 instructor is of good moral character and has been screened
 1654 before employment in accordance with level 2 background
 1655 screening requirements in chapter 435. This subsection does not
 1656 supersede employment requirements for instructional personnel in
 1657 public schools which are more stringent than the requirements of
 1658 this subsection. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
 1659 adopt rules to implement this subsection which shall include
 1660 required qualifications of substitute instructors and the
 1661 circumstances and time limits for which a public school
 1662 prekindergarten provider may assign a substitute instructor.

1663 (8) Each public school delivering the school-year
 1664 prekindergarten program must register with the early learning
 1665 coalition on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of Early~~
 1666 ~~Learning~~ and deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1667 Program in accordance with this part.

1668 (9) (a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that
 1669 each public school delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1670 Education Program within the coalition's service area complies
 1671 with this part.

1672 (b) If a public school fails or refuses to comply with
 1673 this part or engages in misconduct, the department shall require
 1674 the school district to remove the school from eligibility to
 1675 deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and

1676 receive state funds under this part for a period of at least 2
1677 years but no more than 5 years.

1678 Section 40. Section 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended
1679 to read:

1680 1002.67 Performance standards and,~~+~~ curricula ~~and~~
1681 ~~accountability.~~—

1682 (1) (a) The department ~~office~~ shall develop and adopt
1683 performance standards for students in the Voluntary
1684 Prekindergarten Education Program. The performance standards
1685 must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the
1686 development of:

1687 1. The capabilities, capacities, and skills required under
1688 s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution; ~~and~~

1689 2. Emergent literacy skills, including oral communication,
1690 knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological
1691 awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development; and

1692 3. Mathematical thinking and early math skills.

1693
1694 ~~By October 1, 2013, the office shall examine the existing~~
1695 ~~performance standards in the area of mathematical thinking and~~
1696 ~~develop a plan to make appropriate professional development and~~
1697 ~~training courses available to prekindergarten instructors.~~

1698 (b) At least every 3 years, the department ~~office~~ shall
1699 ~~periodically~~ review and, if necessary, revise the performance
1700 standards established under s. 1002.67 ~~for the statewide~~

1701 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69~~ and align
1702 the standards to the standards established by the state board
1703 for student performance on the statewide assessments
1704 administered pursuant to s. 1008.22.

1705 (2) (a) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
1706 school may select or design the curriculum that the provider or
1707 school uses to implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1708 Program, except as otherwise required for a provider or school
1709 that is placed on probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4) (c)~~.

1710 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1711 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
1712 must:

1713 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and
1714 provide for instruction in early math skills;

1715 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in
1716 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
1717 under subsection (1); and

1718 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated
1719 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening
1720 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.2125 ~~Prepare~~
1721 ~~students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide~~
1722 ~~kindergarten screening administered under s. 1002.69.~~

1723 (c) The department ~~office~~ shall adopt procedures for the
1724 review and approval of ~~approve~~ curricula for use by private
1725 prekindergarten providers and public schools that are placed on

1726 probation under s. 1002.68 ~~paragraph (4)(c)~~. The department
1727 ~~office~~ shall administer the review and approval process and
1728 maintain a list of the curricula approved under this paragraph.
1729 Each approved curriculum must meet the requirements of paragraph
1730 (b).

1731 ~~(3)(a) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, each~~
1732 ~~private prekindergarten provider and public school in the~~
1733 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must implement an~~
1734 ~~evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved~~
1735 ~~by rule of the State Board of Education.~~

1736 ~~(b) In order to be approved, the assessment must be valid,~~
1737 ~~reliable, developmentally appropriate, and designed to measure~~
1738 ~~student progress on domains which must include, but are not~~
1739 ~~limited to, early literacy, numeracy, and language.~~

1740 ~~(c) The pre- and post-assessment must be administered by~~
1741 ~~individuals meeting requirements established by rule of the~~
1742 ~~State Board of Education.~~

1743 ~~(4)(a) Each early learning coalition shall verify that~~
1744 ~~each private prekindergarten provider delivering the Voluntary~~
1745 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program within the coalition's county~~
1746 ~~or multicounty region complies with this part. Each district~~
1747 ~~school board shall verify that each public school delivering the~~
1748 ~~program within the school district complies with this part.~~

1749 ~~(b) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1750 ~~fails or refuses to comply with this part, or if a provider or~~

1751 ~~school engages in misconduct, the office shall require the early~~
1752 ~~learning coalition to remove the provider and require the school~~
1753 ~~district to remove the school from eligibility to deliver the~~
1754 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state~~
1755 ~~funds under this part for a period of 5 years.~~

1756 ~~(c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private~~
1757 ~~prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the~~
1758 ~~minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1759 ~~1002.69(6), the early learning coalition or school district, as~~
1760 ~~applicable, shall require the provider or school to submit an~~
1761 ~~improvement plan for approval by the coalition or school~~
1762 ~~district, as applicable, and to implement the plan; shall place~~
1763 ~~the provider or school on probation; and shall require the~~
1764 ~~provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including~~
1765 ~~the use of a curriculum approved by the office under paragraph~~
1766 ~~(2)(c) or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction in~~
1767 ~~language development and phonological awareness approved by the~~
1768 ~~office.~~

1769 ~~2. A private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1770 ~~that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions~~
1771 ~~required under subparagraph 1., including the use of a~~
1772 ~~curriculum or a staff development plan to strengthen instruction~~
1773 ~~in language development and phonological awareness approved by~~
1774 ~~the office, until the provider or school meets the minimum rate~~
1775 ~~adopted by the office as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).~~

1776 ~~Failure to implement an approved improvement plan or staff~~
1777 ~~development plan shall result in the termination of the~~
1778 ~~provider's contract to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
1779 ~~Education Program for a period of 5 years.~~

1780 ~~3. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
1781 ~~remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet~~
1782 ~~the minimum rate adopted by the office as satisfactory under s.~~
1783 ~~1002.69(6) and is not granted a good cause exemption by the~~
1784 ~~office pursuant to s. 1002.69(7), the office shall require the~~
1785 ~~early learning coalition or the school district to remove, as~~
1786 ~~applicable, the provider or school from eligibility to deliver~~
1787 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive~~
1788 ~~state funds for the program for a period of 5 years.~~

1789 ~~(d) Each early learning coalition and the office shall~~
1790 ~~coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the~~
1791 ~~Department of Children and Families to minimize interagency~~
1792 ~~duplication of activities for monitoring private prekindergarten~~
1793 ~~providers for compliance with requirements of the Voluntary~~
1794 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program under this part, the school~~
1795 ~~readiness program under part VI of this chapter, and the~~
1796 ~~licensing of providers under ss. 402.301-402.319.~~

1797 Section 41. Section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, is created
1798 to read:

1799 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1800 accountability.—

1801 (1) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each
1802 private prekindergarten provider and public school participating
1803 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must
1804 participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
1805 program in accordance with s. 1008.2125. The coordinated
1806 screening and progress monitoring program results shall be used
1807 by the department to identify student learning gains, index
1808 development learning outcomes upon program completion relative
1809 to the performance standards established under s. 1002.67 and
1810 representative norms, and inform a private prekindergarten
1811 provider's and public school's performance metric.

1812 (b) At a minimum, the initial and final progress
1813 monitoring or screening must be administered by individuals
1814 meeting requirements adopted by the department under s.
1815 1008.2125.

1816 (c) Each private prekindergarten provider and public
1817 school must provide a student's performance results from the
1818 coordinated screening and progress monitoring to the student's
1819 parents within 7 days after the administration of such
1820 coordinated screening and progress monitoring.

1821 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, each
1822 private prekindergarten provider and public school in the
1823 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in
1824 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education
1825 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of

1826 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,
1827 classroom organization, and instructional support for children
1828 ages 3 to 5 years. Each private prekindergarten provider and
1829 public school in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1830 shall receive from the department the results of the program
1831 assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the
1832 observation. Each early learning coalition shall be responsible
1833 for the administration of the program assessments which must be
1834 conducted by individuals qualified to conduct program
1835 assessments under s. 1002.82(2)(n).

1836 (3)(a) For the 2020-2021 program year, the department
1837 shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for each private
1838 prekindergarten provider and public school participating in the
1839 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program based upon learning
1840 gains and the percentage of students assessed as ready for
1841 kindergarten. The department shall require that each school
1842 district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use
1843 before the 2021-2022 school year to each kindergarten student in
1844 the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-
1845 2022 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide
1846 kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private
1847 school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1848 Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a
1849 value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results
1850 of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2021-

1851 2022 program year. However, a provider may not be newly placed
1852 on probationary status under this paragraph. A provider
1853 currently on probationary status may only be removed from such
1854 status if the provider earns the minimum rate, determined
1855 pursuant to subsection (5). The methodology for calculating a
1856 provider's readiness rate may not include students who are not
1857 administered the statewide kindergarten screening.

1858 (b) For the 2021-2022 program year, kindergarten screening
1859 results may not be used in the calculation of readiness rates.
1860 Any private prekindergarten provider or public school
1861 participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
1862 which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for
1863 the 2021-2022 program year is subject to the probation
1864 requirements of subsection (5).

1865 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 program year, the
1866 department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each
1867 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's
1868 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the
1869 following:

1870 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection
1871 (2), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

1872 2. Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability
1873 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results
1874 described in subsection (1).

1875 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes

1876 described in subsection (1).

1877 (b) The methodology for calculating a provider's
1878 performance metric may not include students who are not
1879 administered the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
1880 program under s. 1008.2125.

1881 (c) The program assessment composite score and performance
1882 metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or
1883 public school site.

1884 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent
1885 profile analysis developed by the department that shall produce
1886 a limited number of performance metric profiles which summarize
1887 the profiles of all sites that must be used to inform the
1888 following designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging
1889 proficiency," "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent"
1890 or comparable terminology determined by the office which may not
1891 include letter grades.

1892 (e) Subject to an appropriation, the department shall
1893 provide for a differential payment to a private prekindergarten
1894 provider and public school based on the provider's designation.
1895 The maximum differential payment may not exceed a total of 15
1896 percent of the base student allocation per full-time equivalent
1897 student under s. 1002.71 attending in the consecutive program
1898 year for that program. A private prekindergarten provider or
1899 public school may not receive a differential payment if it
1900 receives a designation of "proficient" or lower. Before the

1901 adoption of the methodology, the department shall confer with
1902 the Council for Early Grade Success under s. 1008.2125 before
1903 receiving approval from the State Board of Education for the
1904 final recommendations on the designation system and differential
1905 payments.

1906 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually
1907 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public
1908 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in
1909 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph
1910 (d). Beginning with the 2023-2024 program year, each private
1911 prekindergarten provider or public school shall be assigned a
1912 designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-
1913 year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by
1914 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public
1915 schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the summer
1916 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by all
1917 participating private prekindergarten providers or public
1918 schools.

1919 (g) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
1920 designated "proficient," "highly proficient," or "excellent"
1921 demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of
1922 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1923 (h) The designations shall be displayed in the early
1924 learning provider performance profiles required under s.
1925 1002.92 (3).

1926 (5) (a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten
 1927 provider's program assessment composite score for its
 1928 prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program
 1929 assessment composite score for contracting adopted in rule by
 1930 the department, the private prekindergarten provider or public
 1931 school may not participate in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1932 Education Program beginning in the consecutive program year and
 1933 thereafter until the public school or private prekindergarten
 1934 provider meets the minimum composite score for contracting. A
 1935 public school or private prekindergarten provider may request
 1936 one program assessment per program year in order to requalify
 1937 for participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1938 Program, provided that the public school or private
 1939 prekindergarten provider is not excluded from participation
 1940 under ss. 1002.55(6), 1002.61(10) (b), 1002.63(9) (b), or
 1941 paragraph (5) (b) of this section. If a public school or private
 1942 prekindergarten provider would like an additional program
 1943 assessment completed within the same program year, the public
 1944 school or private prekindergarten provider shall be responsible
 1945 for the cost of the program assessment.

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

1950 1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval

1951 to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and
1952 implement the plan.

1953 2. Place the provider or school on probation.

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

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

1970 (d) If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
1971 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
1972 the minimum performance metric or designation, or is not granted
1973 a good cause exemption by the department, the department shall
1974 require the early learning coalition to revoke the provider's
1975 eligibility and the school district to revoke the school's

1976 eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1977 Program and receive state funds for the program for a period of
1978 at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.

1979 (6) (a) The department, upon the request of a private
1980 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
1981 probation for at least 2 consecutive years and subsequently
1982 fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation, and
1983 for good cause shown, may grant to the provider or school an
1984 exemption from being determined ineligible to deliver the
1985 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and receive state
1986 funds for the program. Such exemption is valid for 1 year and,
1987 upon the request of the private prekindergarten provider or
1988 public school and for good cause shown, may be renewed.

1989 (b) A private prekindergarten provider's or public
1990 school's request for a good cause exemption, or renewal of such
1991 an exemption, must be submitted to the department in the manner
1992 and within the timeframes prescribed by the department and must
1993 include the following:

1994 1. Data from the private prekindergarten provider or
1995 public school which documents the achievement and progress of
1996 the children served, as measured by any required screenings or
1997 assessments.

1998 2. Data from the program assessment required under
1999 subsection (2) which demonstrates effective teaching practices
2000 as recognized by the tool developer.

2001 3. Data from the early learning coalition or district
2002 school board, as applicable, the Department of Children and
2003 Families, the local licensing authority, or an accrediting
2004 association, as applicable, relating to the private
2005 prekindergarten provider's or public school's compliance with
2006 state and local health and safety standards.

2007 (c) The department shall adopt criteria for granting good
2008 cause exemptions. Such criteria must include, but are not
2009 limited to, all of the following:

2010 1. Child demographic data that evidences a private
2011 prekindergarten provider or public school serves a statistically
2012 significant population of children with special needs who have
2013 individual education plans and can demonstrate progress toward
2014 meeting the goals outlined in the students' individual education
2015 plans.

2016 2. Learning gains of children served in the Voluntary
2017 Prekindergarten Education Program by the private prekindergarten
2018 provider or public school on an alternative measure that has
2019 comparable validity and reliability of the coordinated screening
2020 and progress monitoring program in accordance with s. 1008.2125.

2021 3. Program assessment data under subsection (2) which
2022 demonstrates effective teaching practices as recognized by the
2023 tool developer.

2024 4. Verification that local and state health and safety
2025 requirements are met.

2026 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any
2027 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any
2028 class I violations or two or more class II violations, as
2029 defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families,
2030 within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request
2031 for the exemption.

2032 (e) A private prekindergarten provider or public school
2033 granted a good cause exemption shall continue to implement its
2034 improvement plan and continue the corrective actions required
2035 under subsection (5) (b) until the provider or school meets the
2036 minimum performance metric.

2037 (f) If a good cause exemption is granted to a private
2038 prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on
2039 probation for 2 consecutive years and if the provider meets all
2040 other applicable requirements of this part, the department shall
2041 notify the early learning coalition of the good cause exemption
2042 and direct that the early learning coalition not remove the
2043 provider from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary
2044 Prekindergarten Education Program or to receive state funds for
2045 the program.

2046 (g) The department shall report the number of private
2047 prekindergarten providers or public schools that have received a
2048 good cause exemption and the reasons for the exemptions as part
2049 of its annual reporting requirements under s. 1002.82(7).

2050 (7) Representatives from each school district and

2051 corresponding early learning coalitions must meet annually to
2052 develop strategies to transition students from the Voluntary
2053 Prekindergarten Education Program to kindergarten.

2054 Section 42. Section 1002.69, Florida Statutes, is
2055 repealed.

2056 Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3), subsection
2057 (4), paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraphs (b) and (d) of
2058 subsection (6), and subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida
2059 Statutes, are amended to read:

2060 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.-
2061 (3)

2062 (c) The initial allocation shall be based on estimated
2063 student enrollment in each coalition service area. The
2064 department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall reallocate funds among
2065 the coalitions based on actual full-time equivalent student
2066 enrollment in each coalition service area. Each coalition shall
2067 report student enrollment pursuant to subsection (2) on a
2068 monthly basis. A student enrollment count for the prior fiscal
2069 year may not be amended after September 30 of the subsequent
2070 fiscal year.

2071 (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):

2072 (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs
2073 listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 70 percent
2074 of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under
2075 subsection (2), or has not expended more than 70 percent of the

2076 funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw
2077 from the program for good cause and reenroll in one of the
2078 programs. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of
2079 the programs for good cause may not exceed one full-time
2080 equivalent student. Funding for a child who withdraws and
2081 reenrolls in one of the programs for good cause shall be issued
2082 in accordance with the department's ~~Office of Early Learning's~~
2083 uniform attendance policy adopted pursuant to paragraph (6)(d).

2084 (b) A child who has not substantially completed any of the
2085 prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3) may withdraw
2086 from the program due to an extreme hardship that is beyond the
2087 child's or parent's control, reenroll in one of the summer
2088 programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time
2089 equivalent student in the summer program for which the child is
2090 reenrolled.

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

2101 exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under
2102 paragraph (b).

2103 (5)

2104 (b) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt
2105 procedures for the payment of private prekindergarten providers
2106 and public schools delivering the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2107 Education Program. The procedures shall provide for the advance
2108 payment of providers and schools based upon student enrollment
2109 in the program, the certification of student attendance, and the
2110 reconciliation of advance payments in accordance with the
2111 uniform attendance policy adopted under paragraph (6) (d). The
2112 procedures shall provide for the monthly distribution of funds
2113 by the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ to the early learning
2114 coalitions for payment by the coalitions to private
2115 prekindergarten providers and public schools.

2116 (6)

2117 (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district
2118 school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each
2119 student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
2120 verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
2121 month's certified student attendance.

2122 2. The parent must submit the verification of the
2123 student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or
2124 public school on forms prescribed by the department ~~Office of~~
2125 ~~Early Learning~~. The forms must include, in addition to the

2126 verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in
 2127 substantially the following form, that the parent continues to
 2128 choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in
 2129 accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the
 2130 program be made to the provider or school:

2131 VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
 2132 AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE

2133 I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my child,
 2134 ...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2135 Education Program on the days listed above and certify that I
 2136 continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or School)... to deliver
 2137 the program for my child and direct that program funds be paid
 2138 to the provider or school for my child.

2139 ... (Signature of Parent) ...

2140 ... (Date) ...

2141 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school
 2142 must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each
 2143 private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning
 2144 coalition, and each public school must permit the school
 2145 district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal
 2146 business hours. The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall
 2147 adopt procedures for early learning coalitions and school
 2148 districts to review the original signed forms against the
 2149 certified student attendance. The review procedures shall
 2150 provide for the use of selective inspection techniques,

2151 including, but not limited to, random sampling. Each early
2152 learning coalition and the school districts must comply with the
2153 review procedures.

2154 (d) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt,
2155 for funding purposes, a uniform attendance policy for the
2156 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. The attendance
2157 policy must apply statewide and apply equally to all private
2158 prekindergarten providers and public schools. The attendance
2159 policy must include at least the following provisions:

2160 1. A student's attendance may be reported on a pro rata
2161 basis as a fractional part of a full-time equivalent student.

2162 2. At a maximum, 20 percent of the total payment made on
2163 behalf of a student to a private prekindergarten provider or a
2164 public school may be for hours a student is absent.

2165 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school may
2166 not receive payment for absences that occur before a student's
2167 first day of attendance or after a student's last day of
2168 attendance.

2169

2170 The uniform attendance policy shall be used only for funding
2171 purposes and does not prohibit a private prekindergarten
2172 provider or public school from adopting and enforcing its
2173 attendance policy under paragraphs (a) and (c).

2174 (7) The department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall require
2175 that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum

2176 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
2177 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative
2178 policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent
2179 practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic
2180 submission of forms, including those required for child
2181 eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and
2182 monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school
2183 district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system
2184 for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early
2185 learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In
2186 addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate
2187 the duplication of reports, and eliminate other duplicative
2188 activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend
2189 no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to
2190 private prekindergarten providers and public schools under
2191 paragraph (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition
2192 under this subsection may be used only for administering the
2193 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used
2194 for the school readiness program or other programs.

2195 Section 44. Subsection (1) of section 1002.72, Florida
2196 Statutes, is amended to read:

2197 1002.72 Records of children in the Voluntary
2198 Prekindergarten Education Program.—

2199 (1) (a) The records of a child enrolled in the Voluntary
2200 Prekindergarten Education Program held by an early learning

2201 coalition, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~, or a
 2202 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider are
 2203 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
 2204 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, such
 2205 records include assessment data, health data, records of teacher
 2206 observations, and personal identifying information of an
 2207 enrolled child and his or her parent.

2208 (b) This exemption applies to the records of a child
 2209 enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program held
 2210 by an early learning coalition, the department ~~Office of Early~~
 2211 ~~Learning~~, or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2212 provider before, on, or after the effective date of this
 2213 exemption.

2214 Section 45. Section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2215 to read:

2216 1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;
 2217 accountability requirements.—

2218 (1) The department shall adopt by rule a standard
 2219 statewide provider contract to be used with each Voluntary
 2220 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, with standardized
 2221 attachments by provider type. The department shall publish a
 2222 copy of the standard statewide provider contract on its website.
 2223 The standard statewide provider contract shall include, at a
 2224 minimum, provisions for provider probation, termination for
 2225 cause, and emergency termination for actions or inactions of a

2226 provider that pose an immediate and serious danger to the
 2227 health, safety, or welfare of children. The standard statewide
 2228 provider contract shall also include appropriate due process
 2229 procedures. During the pendency of an appeal of a termination,
 2230 the provider may not continue to offer its services. Any
 2231 provision imposed upon a provider that is inconsistent with, or
 2232 prohibited by, law is void and unenforceable ~~administer the~~
 2233 ~~accountability requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
 2234 ~~Education Program at the state level.~~

2235 (2) The department shall adopt procedures for ~~its~~:

2236 (a) The approval of prekindergarten director credentials
 2237 under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.57.

2238 (b) The approval of emergent literacy and early
 2239 mathematics skills training courses under ss. 1002.55 and
 2240 1002.59.

2241 (c) Annually notifying private prekindergarten providers
 2242 and public schools placed on probation for not meeting the
 2243 minimum performance metric or designation as required by s.
 2244 1002.68 of the high-quality professional development
 2245 opportunities developed or supported by the department.

2246 (d) The administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2247 Education Program by the early learning coalitions, including,
 2248 but not limited to, procedures for:

2249 1. Enrolling students in and determining the eligibility
 2250 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program

2251 under s. 1002.53, which shall include the enrollment of children
2252 by public schools and private providers that meet specified
2253 requirements.

2254 2. Providing parents with profiles of private
2255 prekindergarten providers and public schools under s. 1002.53.

2256 3. Registering private prekindergarten providers and
2257 public schools to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55,
2258 1002.61, and 1002.63.

2259 4. Determining the eligibility of private prekindergarten
2260 providers to deliver the program under ss. 1002.55 and 1002.61
2261 and streamlining the process of determining provider eligibility
2262 whenever possible.

2263 5. Verifying the compliance of private prekindergarten
2264 providers and public schools and removing providers or schools
2265 from eligibility to deliver the program due to noncompliance or
2266 misconduct as provided in s. 1002.67.

2267 6. Paying private prekindergarten providers and public
2268 schools under s. 1002.71.

2269 7. Documenting and certifying student enrollment and
2270 student attendance under s. 1002.71.

2271 8. Reconciling advance payments in accordance with the
2272 uniform attendance policy under s. 1002.71.

2273 9. Reenrolling students dismissed by a private
2274 prekindergarten provider or public school for noncompliance with
2275 the provider's or school district's attendance policy under s.

2276 1002.71.

2277 (3) The department shall administer the accountability
 2278 requirements of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2279 at the state level.

2280 (4) The department shall adopt procedures governing the
 2281 administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 2282 Program by the early learning coalitions for:

2283 (a) Approving improvement plans of private prekindergarten
 2284 providers and public schools under s. 1002.68.

2285 (b) Placing private prekindergarten providers and public
 2286 schools on probation and requiring corrective actions under s.
 2287 1002.68.

2288 (c) Removing a private prekindergarten provider or public
 2289 school from eligibility to deliver the program due to the
 2290 provider's or school's remaining on probation beyond the time
 2291 permitted under s. 1002.68. Notwithstanding any other law, if a
 2292 private prekindergarten provider has been cited for a class I
 2293 violation, as defined by rule of the Child Care Services Program
 2294 Office of the Department of Children and Families, the coalition
 2295 may refuse to contract with the provider or revoke the
 2296 provider's eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 2297 Education Program.

2298 (d) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility
 2299 of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
 2300 under s. 1002.66.

2301 (e) Paying specialized instructional services providers
 2302 under s. 1002.66.

2303 ~~(c) Administration of the statewide kindergarten screening~~
 2304 ~~and calculation of kindergarten readiness rates under s.~~
 2305 ~~1002.69.~~

2306 ~~(d) Implementation of, and determination of costs~~
 2307 ~~associated with, the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
 2308 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
 2309 ~~department, and determination of the learning gains of students~~
 2310 ~~who complete the state-approved prekindergarten enrollment~~
 2311 ~~screening and the standardized postassessment approved by the~~
 2312 ~~department.~~

2313 (f)(e) Approving ~~Approval~~ of specialized instructional
 2314 services providers under s. 1002.66.

2315 ~~(f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten~~
 2316 ~~students who meet all state readiness measures.~~

2317 (g) Granting of a private prekindergarten provider's or
 2318 public school's request for a good cause exemption under s.
 2319 1002.68 ~~s. 1002.69(7).~~

2320 (5) The department shall adopt procedures for the
 2321 distribution of funds to early learning coalitions under s.
 2322 1002.71.

2323 (6)(3) Except as provided by law, the department may not
 2324 impose requirements on a private prekindergarten provider or
 2325 public school that does not deliver the Voluntary

2326 Prekindergarten Education Program or receive state funds under
 2327 this part.

2328 Section 46. Sections 1002.75, Florida Statutes, is
 2329 repealed.

2330 Section 47. Section 1002.79, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2331 to read:

2332 1002.79 Rulemaking authority.—The State Board of Education
 2333 ~~Office of Early Learning~~ shall adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1)
 2334 and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this part conferring
 2335 duties upon the department ~~office~~.

2336 Section 48. Section 1002.81, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2337 to read:

2338 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of
 2339 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

2340 (1) "At-risk child" means:

2341 (a) A child from a family under investigation by the
 2342 Department of Children and Families or a designated sheriff's
 2343 office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2344 (b) A child who is in a diversion program provided by the
 2345 Department of Children and Families or its contracted provider
 2346 and who is from a family that is actively participating and
 2347 complying in department-prescribed activities, including
 2348 education, health services, or work.

2349 (c) A child from a family that is under supervision by the
 2350 Department of Children and Families or a contracted service

2351 provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or exploitation.

2352 (d) A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or
 2353 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after
 2354 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and
 2355 Families or its contracted provider.

2356 (e) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered a
 2357 victim of domestic violence and is receiving services through a
 2358 certified domestic violence center.

2359 (f) A child in the custody of a parent who is considered
 2360 homeless as verified by a Department of Children and Families
 2361 certified homeless shelter.

2362 (2) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care
 2363 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,
 2364 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,
 2365 including reasonable travel time.

2366 (3) "Department" means the Department of Education.

2367 (4) "Direct enhancement services" means services for
 2368 families and children that are in addition to payments for the
 2369 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct
 2370 enhancement services for families and children may include
 2371 supports for providers, parent training and involvement
 2372 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique
 2373 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement
 2374 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be
 2375 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(5)(b) ~~s.~~

2376 ~~1002.89(6)(b).~~

2377 (5) "Disenrollment" means the removal, either temporary or
 2378 permanent, of a child from participation in the school readiness
 2379 program. Removal of a child from the school readiness program
 2380 may be based on the following events: a reduction in available
 2381 school readiness program funding, participant's failure to meet
 2382 eligibility or program participation requirements, fraud, or a
 2383 change in local service priorities.

2384 (6) "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived from
 2385 work, professional service, or self-employment. The term
 2386 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash
 2387 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

2388 (7) "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family
 2389 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty
 2390 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family
 2391 as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural
 2392 worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer
 2393 during the course of a year, and whose income varies according
 2394 to weather conditions and market stability.

2395 (8) "Family income" means the combined gross income,
 2396 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by
 2397 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older
 2398 who are currently residing together in the same dwelling unit.
 2399 The term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled
 2400 high school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, or

2401 a student with a disability who, since attaining the age of 22
 2402 years, has not terminated school enrollment or received a high
 2403 school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, special
 2404 diploma, or certificate of high school completion. The term also
 2405 does not include food stamp benefits or federal housing
 2406 assistance payments issued directly to a landlord or the
 2407 associated utilities expenses.

2408 (9) "Family or household members" means spouses, former
 2409 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are
 2410 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have
 2411 been married, and other persons who are currently residing
 2412 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

2413 (10) "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not more
 2414 than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education
 2415 services within a 24-hour period.

2416 (11) "Market rate" means the price that a child care or
 2417 early childhood education provider charges for full-time or
 2418 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early
 2419 childhood education services.

2420 ~~(12) "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the~~
 2421 ~~Department of Education.~~

2422 (12)~~(13)~~ "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child
 2423 care or early childhood education services within a 24-hour
 2424 period.

2425 (13)~~(3)~~ "Prevailing Average market rate" means the

2426 biennially determined 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency
 2427 distribution ~~average~~ of the market rate by program care level
 2428 and provider type in a predetermined geographic market at which
 2429 child care providers charge a person for child care services.

2430 (14) "Single point of entry" means an integrated
 2431 information system that allows a parent to enroll his or her
 2432 child in the school readiness program or the Voluntary
 2433 Prekindergarten Education Program at various locations
 2434 throughout a county, that may allow a parent to enroll his or
 2435 her child by telephone or through a website, and that uses a
 2436 uniform waiting list to track eligible children waiting for
 2437 enrollment in the school readiness program.

2438 (15) "Unearned income" means income other than earned
 2439 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- 2440 (a) Documented alimony and child support received.
- 2441 (b) Social security benefits.
- 2442 (c) Supplemental security income benefits.
- 2443 (d) Workers' compensation benefits.
- 2444 (e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation
- 2445 benefits.
- 2446 (f) Veterans' benefits.
- 2447 (g) Retirement benefits.
- 2448 (h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.

2449 (16) "Working family" means:

- 2450 (a) A single-parent family in which the parent with whom

2451 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2452 education activities for at least 20 hours per week;

2453 (b) A two-parent family in which both parents with whom
 2454 the child resides are employed or engaged in eligible work or
 2455 education activities for a combined total of at least 40 hours
 2456 per week; or

2457 (c) A two-parent family in which one of the parents with
 2458 whom the child resides is exempt from work requirements due to
 2459 age or disability, as determined and documented by a physician
 2460 licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, and one parent is
 2461 employed or engaged in eligible work or education activities at
 2462 least 20 hours per week.

2463 Section 49. Section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended
 2464 to read:

2465 1002.82 Department of Education ~~Office of Early Learning~~;
 2466 powers and duties.—

2467 (1) For purposes of administration of the Child Care and
 2468 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts
 2469 98 and 99, the department ~~Office of Early Learning~~ is designated
 2470 as the lead agency and must comply with lead agency
 2471 responsibilities pursuant to federal law. The department ~~office~~
 2472 may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of, and the
 2473 Governor and Cabinet may waive, any provision of ss. 411.223 and
 2474 1003.54 if the waiver is necessary for implementation of the
 2475 school readiness program. Section 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply

2476 to the school readiness program.

2477 (2) The department ~~office~~ shall:

2478 (a) Focus on improving the educational quality delivered
2479 by all providers participating in the school readiness program.

2480 (b) Preserve parental choice by permitting parents to
2481 choose from a variety of child care categories, including
2482 center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to
2483 the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development
2484 Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health
2485 and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and
2486 curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or
2487 excluded in any of these categories.

2488 (c) Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and
2489 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual
2490 requirements, safeguarding the effective use of federal, state,
2491 and local resources to achieve the highest practicable level of
2492 school readiness for the children described in s. 1002.87,
2493 including:

2494 1. The adoption of a uniform chart of accounts for
2495 budgeting and financial reporting purposes that provides
2496 standardized definitions for expenditures and reporting,
2497 consistent with the requirements of 45 C.F.R. part 98 and s.
2498 1002.89 for each of the following categories of expenditure:

2499 a. Direct services to children.

2500 b. Administrative costs.

- 2501 c. Quality activities.
- 2502 d. Nondirect services.
- 2503 2. Coordination with other state and federal agencies to
- 2504 perform data matches on children participating in the school
- 2505 readiness program and their families in order to verify the
- 2506 children's eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87.
- 2507 (d) Establish procedures for the biennial calculation of
- 2508 the prevailing average market rate or an alternative model that
- 2509 has been approved by the Administration for Children and
- 2510 Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c).
- 2511 (e) Review each early learning coalition's school
- 2512 readiness program plan every 2 years and provide final approval
- 2513 of the plan and any amendments submitted.
- 2514 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to
- 2515 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of
- 2516 this effort, the department ~~office~~:
- 2517 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that
- 2518 address the state's school readiness program, including:
- 2519 a. Statewide data information program requirements that
- 2520 include:
- 2521 (I) Eligibility requirements.
- 2522 (II) Financial reports.
- 2523 (III) Program accountability measures.
- 2524 (IV) Child progress reports.
- 2525 b. Child care resource and referral services.

2526 c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.

2527 2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on

2528 additional support services to complement the school readiness

2529 program, including:

2530 ~~a. Rating and improvement systems.~~

2531 a.b. Warm-Line services.

2532 b.e. Anti-fraud plans.

2533 ~~d. School readiness program standards.~~

2534 ~~e. Child screening and assessments.~~

2535 c.f. Training and support for parental involvement in

2536 children's early education.

2537 ~~d.g.~~ Family literacy activities and services.

2538 (g) Provide technical assistance to early learning

2539 coalitions.

2540 (h) In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,

2541 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the

2542 Department of Children and Families to reduce paperwork and to

2543 avoid duplicating interagency activities, health and safety

2544 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child

2545 care training and credentialing.

2546 (i) Enter into a memorandum of understanding with local

2547 licensing agencies and the Child Care Services Program Office of

2548 the Department of Children and Families for inspections of

2549 school readiness program providers to monitor and verify

2550 compliance with s. 1002.88 and the health and safety checklist

2551 adopted by the department ~~office~~. The provider contract of a
2552 school readiness program provider that refuses permission for
2553 entry or inspection shall be terminated. The health and safety
2554 checklist may not exceed the requirements of s. 402.305 and the
2555 Child Care and Development Fund pursuant to 45 C.F.R. part 98. A
2556 child development program that is accredited by a national
2557 accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is
2558 certified by the United States Department of Defense is exempted
2559 from the inspection requirements under s. 1002.88.

2560 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the ~~Develop~~
2561 ~~and adopt~~ standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the
2562 department that address the age-appropriate progress of children
2563 in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for
2564 children from birth to kindergarten entry ~~5 years of age~~ in the
2565 school readiness program must be aligned with the performance
2566 standards adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten
2567 Education Program and must address the following domains:

- 2568 1. Approaches to learning.
- 2569 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 2570 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 2571 4. Physical development.
- 2572 5. Self-regulation.

2573 (k) Identify observation-based child assessments that are
2574 valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate for use at
2575 least three times a year. The assessments must:

2576 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~critereion-~~
2577 ~~referenced~~ data that measures equivalent levels of growth across
2578 the core domains of early childhood development and that can be
2579 used for determining developmentally appropriate learning gains.

2580 2. Measure progress in the performance standards adopted
2581 pursuant to paragraph (j).

2582 3. Provide for appropriate accommodations for children
2583 with disabilities and English language learners and be
2584 administered by qualified individuals, consistent with the
2585 developer's instructions.

2586 4. Coordinate with the performance standards adopted by
2587 the department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary
2588 Prekindergarten Education Program.

2589 5. Provide data in a format for use in the single
2590 statewide information system to meet the requirements of
2591 paragraph (q) ~~(p)~~.

2592 (l) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the
2593 performance standards for the school readiness program and
2594 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's
2595 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

2596 (m) Provide technical support to an early learning
2597 coalition to facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ a standard
2598 statewide provider contract adopted by the department to be used
2599 with each school readiness program provider, with standardized
2600 attachments by provider type. The department ~~office~~ shall

2601 publish a copy of the standard statewide provider contract on
2602 its website. The standard statewide contract shall include, at a
2603 minimum, contracted slots, if applicable, in accordance with the
2604 Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, 45 C.F.R.
2605 parts 98 and 99; quality improvement strategies, if applicable;
2606 program assessment requirements; and provisions for provider
2607 probation, termination for cause, and emergency termination for
2608 those actions or inactions of a provider that pose an immediate
2609 and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the
2610 children. The standard statewide provider contract shall also
2611 include appropriate due process procedures. During the pendency
2612 of an appeal of a termination, the provider may not continue to
2613 offer its services. Any provision imposed upon a provider that
2614 is inconsistent with, or prohibited by, law is void and
2615 unenforceable. Provisions for termination for cause must also
2616 include failure to meet the minimum quality measures established
2617 under paragraph (n) for a period of up to 5 years, unless the
2618 coalition determines that the provider is essential to meeting
2619 capacity needs based on the assessment under s. 1002.85(2)(j)
2620 and the provider has an active improvement plan pursuant to
2621 paragraph (n).

2622 (n) Adopt a program assessment for school readiness
2623 program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child
2624 interactions, including emotional and behavioral support,
2625 engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and

2626 instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years. The
2627 implementation of the program assessment must ~~also~~ include the
2628 following components adopted by rule of the State Board of
2629 Education:

2630 1. Quality measures, including a minimum program
2631 assessment composite score ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes
2632 and program improvement through an improvement plan.

2633 2. Requirements for program participation, frequency of
2634 program assessment, and exemptions.

2635 (o) No later than July 1, 2019, develop a differential
2636 payment program based on the quality measures adopted by the
2637 department ~~office~~ under paragraph (n). The differential payment
2638 may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and
2639 unit of child care for a child care provider. No more than 5
2640 percent of the 15 percent total differential may be provided to
2641 providers who submit valid and reliable data to the statewide
2642 information system in the domains of language and executive
2643 functioning using a child assessment identified pursuant to
2644 paragraph (k). Providers below the minimum program assessment
2645 score adopted ~~threshold~~ for contracting purposes are ineligible
2646 for such payment.

2647 (p) No later than July 1, 2022, develop and adopt
2648 requirements for the implementation of a program designed to
2649 make available contracted slots to serve children at the
2650 greatest risk of school failure as determined by such children

2651 being located in an area that has been designated as a poverty
2652 area tract according to the latest census data. The contracted
2653 slot program may also be used to increase the availability of
2654 child care capacity based on the assessment under s.
2655 1002.85(2)(j).

2656 (q) ~~(p)~~ Establish a single statewide information system
2657 that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing the
2658 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,
2659 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining
2660 eligibility of children, tracking child attendance, and
2661 streamlining administrative processes for providers and early
2662 learning coalitions. By July 1, 2019, the system, subject to ss.
2663 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

2664 1. Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or her
2665 child as the child moves among programs within the state.

2666 2. Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local level
2667 to measure child growth over time, program impact, and quality
2668 improvement and investment decisions.

2669 (r) ~~(q)~~ Provide technical support to coalitions to
2670 facilitate the use of ~~Adopt by rule~~ standardized procedures
2671 adopted in state board rule for early learning coalitions to use
2672 when monitoring the compliance of school readiness program
2673 providers with the terms of the standard statewide provider
2674 contract.

2675 (s) ~~(r)~~ At least biennially provide fiscal and programmatic

2676 | monitoring to ~~Monitor and~~ evaluate the performance of each early
2677 | learning coalition in administering the school readiness
2678 | program, ensuring proper payments for school readiness program
2679 | services, implementing the coalition's school readiness program
2680 | plan, and administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2681 | Program. These monitoring and performance evaluations must
2682 | include, at a minimum, onsite monitoring of each coalition's
2683 | finances, management, operations, and programs.

2684 | (t) ~~(s)~~ Work in conjunction with the Bureau of Federal
2685 | Education Programs within the department ~~of Education~~ to
2686 | coordinate readiness and voluntary prekindergarten services to
2687 | the populations served by the bureau.

2688 | (u) ~~(t)~~ Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to
2689 | provide assistance and consultation to child care facilities and
2690 | family day care homes regarding health, developmental,
2691 | disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
2692 | serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
2693 | special needs. The department ~~office~~ shall:

2694 | 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family day
2695 | care homes of the availability of this service through the child
2696 | care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2697 | 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line
2698 | to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning
2699 | coalition service area.

2700 | (v) ~~(u)~~ Develop and implement strategies to increase the

2701 supply and improve the quality of child care services for
 2702 infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, children who
 2703 receive care during nontraditional hours, children in
 2704 underserved areas, and children in areas that have significant
 2705 concentrations of poverty and unemployment.

2706 (w)~~(v)~~ Establish preservice and inservice training
 2707 requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child
 2708 development standards, health and safety requirements, and
 2709 social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include
 2710 positive behavior intervention and support models, including the
 2711 integration of early learning professional development pathways
 2712 established in s. 1002.995.

2713 (x)~~(w)~~ Establish standards for emergency preparedness
 2714 plans for school readiness program providers.

2715 (y)~~(x)~~ Establish group sizes.

2716 (z)~~(y)~~ Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not
 2717 exceed the requirements of s. 402.302(8) or (11) or s.
 2718 402.305(4), as applicable, for school readiness program
 2719 providers.

2720 (aa)~~(z)~~ Establish eligibility criteria, including
 2721 limitations based on income and family assets, in accordance
 2722 with s. 1002.87 and federal law.

2723 (3) (a) The department shall adopt performance standards
 2724 and outcome measures for early learning coalitions that, at a
 2725 minimum, include the development of objective and statistically

2726 valid customer service surveys by a state university of other
2727 independent researcher with specific expertise in customer
2728 service survey development. The survey shall be deployed
2729 beginning in fiscal year 2022-2023 and be distributed to:

- 2730 1. Customers who use the services in s. 1002.92 upon the
2731 completion of a referral inquiry.
- 2732 2. Parents, annually, at the time of eligibility
2733 determination.
- 2734 3. Child care providers that participate in the school
2735 readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
2736 Program at the time of execution of the statewide provider
2737 contract.
- 2738 4. Board members required under s. 1002.83.

2739 (b) Results of the survey shall be based on a
2740 statistically significant sample size of completed surveys and
2741 calculated annually for each early learning coalition and
2742 included in the department's annual report under subsection (7).
2743 If an early learning coalition's customer satisfaction survey
2744 results are below 60 percent, the coalition shall be placed on a
2745 1-year corrective action plan that outlines the specific steps
2746 the coalition shall take to improve the results of the customer
2747 service surveys, including, but not limited to, technical
2748 assistance, staff professional development, or coaching. If,
2749 after being placed on corrective action, an early learning
2750 coalition's customer satisfaction survey results do not improve

2751 above the 60 percent threshold, the department may contract out
2752 or merge the coalition.

2753 (4)~~(3)~~ If the department ~~office~~ determines during the
2754 review of school readiness program plans, or through monitoring
2755 and performance evaluations conducted under s. 1002.85, that an
2756 early learning coalition has not substantially implemented its
2757 plan, has not substantially met the performance standards and
2758 outcome measures adopted by the department or the terms of a
2759 customer service corrective action plan ~~office~~, or has not
2760 effectively administered the school readiness program or
2761 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the department
2762 ~~office~~ may remove the coalition from eligibility to administer
2763 early learning programs and temporarily contract with a
2764 qualified entity to continue school readiness program and
2765 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
2766 multicounty region until the department ~~office~~ reestablishes or
2767 merges the coalition and a new school readiness program plan is
2768 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board
2769 ~~office~~.

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

2776 | which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2847 Section 50. Subsections (5) through (14) of section
 2848 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6)
 2849 through (15), respectively, subsections (1) and (3), paragraphs
 2850 (e), (f), and (m) of subsection (4), and present subsections

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

2853 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

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

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

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

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

2876 applicable.

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

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

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

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

2901 readiness program.

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

2909 (14)~~(13)~~ Each early learning coalition shall complete an
2910 annual evaluation of the early learning coalition's executive
2911 director or chief executive officer on forms adopted by the
2912 department. The annual evaluation must be submitted to the
2913 commissioner by August 30 of each year. ~~use a coordinated~~
2914 ~~professional development system that supports the achievement~~
2915 ~~and maintenance of core competencies by school readiness program~~
2916 ~~teachers in helping children attain the performance standards~~
2917 ~~adopted by the office.~~

2918 Section 51. Subsections (7) through (20) of section
2919 1002.84, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (8)
2920 through (21), respectively, subsections (1), (2), and (4) and
2921 present subsections (7), (8), (15), (16), (17), (18), and (20)
2922 of that section are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added
2923 to that section, to read:

2924 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
2925 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

2926 (1) Administer and implement a local comprehensive program
2927 of school readiness program services in accordance with this
2928 part and the rules adopted by the department ~~office~~, which
2929 enhances the cognitive, social, and physical development of
2930 children to achieve the performance standards.

2931 (2) Establish a uniform waiting list to track eligible
2932 children waiting for enrollment in the school readiness program
2933 in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education
2934 ~~office~~.

2935 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the
2936 department ~~office~~ pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(t)~~.
2937 Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical
2938 assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and
2939 family day care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies,
2940 curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care
2941 facilities and family day care homes may need as they serve
2942 children with disabilities and other special needs.

2943 (7) Use a coordinated professional development system that
2944 supports the achievement and maintenance of core competencies by
2945 school readiness program teachers in helping children attain the
2946 performance standards adopted by the department.

2947 (8) ~~(7)~~ Determine child eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.87
2948 and provider eligibility pursuant to s. 1002.88. Child
2949 eligibility must be redetermined annually. A coalition must
2950 document the reason a child is no longer eligible for the school

2951 readiness program according to the standard codes prescribed by
2952 the department office.

2953 ~~(9)-(8)~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides
2954 for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families
2955 receiving school readiness program services. ~~Providers are~~
2956 ~~required to collect the parent's copayment.~~ A coalition may, ~~on~~
2957 ~~a case-by-case basis,~~ waive the copayment for an at-risk child
2958 or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's
2959 income is at or below the federal poverty level or ~~and~~ whose
2960 family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits
2961 the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in
2962 residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency
2963 situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the
2964 parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in
2965 an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may
2966 not transfer school readiness program services to another school
2967 readiness program provider until the parent has submitted
2968 documentation from the current school readiness program provider
2969 to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has
2970 satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

2971 ~~(16)-(15)~~ Monitor school readiness program providers in
2972 accordance with its plan, or in response to a parental
2973 complaint, to verify that the standards prescribed in ss.
2974 1002.82 and 1002.88 are being met using a standard monitoring
2975 tool adopted by the department office. Providers determined to

2976 | be high-risk by the coalition, as demonstrated by substantial
2977 | findings of violations of federal law or the general or local
2978 | laws of the state, shall be monitored more frequently. Providers
2979 | with 3 consecutive years of compliance may be monitored
2980 | biennially.

2981 | ~~(17)~~~~(16)~~ Adopt a payment schedule that encompasses all
2982 | programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The
2983 | payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
2984 | ~~average~~ market rate or an alternative model that has been
2985 | approved by the Administration for Children and Families
2986 | pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 98.45(c), include the projected number of
2987 | children to be served, and be submitted for approval by the
2988 | department ~~office~~. Informal child care arrangements shall be
2989 | reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a
2990 | family day care home.

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

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

3000 | (a) Segregation of school readiness program funds,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3026 facility.

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

3028 comply with the requirements of this section before contracting

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

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

3031 by the following persons:

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

3033 1002.83(3);

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

3035 entity;

3036 3. A coalition employee; or

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

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

3039 employee of the coalition.

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

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

3042 documentation demonstrating adherence to this section by the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3059 Section 52. Section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended
3060 to read:

3061 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3126 security, and disbursement controls.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3166 Section 53. Paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (m), (n),
3167 (p), and (q) of subsection (1) and subsection (3) of section
3168 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (s) is
3169 added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3272 (s) Collect all parent copayment fees unless a waiver has
 3273 been granted under s. 1002.84(9).

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

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

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

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

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

3285 Section 54. Subsections (3) through (7) of section
 3286 1002.89, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2)
 3287 through (6), respectively, and subsection (2) and present
 3288 subsections (3) and (6) of that section are amended, to read:

3289 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

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

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

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

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

3305 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.
 3306 98.54 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.52~~, which shall include monitoring
 3307 providers using the standard methodology adopted under s.
 3308 1002.82 to improve compliance with state and federal regulations
 3309 and law pursuant to the requirements of the statewide provider
 3310 contract adopted under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

3311 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as
 3312 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53 ~~45 C.F.R. s. 98.51~~, which shall
 3313 be limited to the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3361
 3362 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does
 3363 not include payments to school readiness program providers for
 3364 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.
 3365 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or
 3366 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

3367 Section 55. Subsection (1), paragraph (a) of subsection
 3368 (2), and subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section 1002.895,
 3369 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

- 3372 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall establish procedures for
- 3373 the adoption of a market rate schedule until an alternative
- 3374 model that has been approved by the Administration for Children
- 3375 and Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c) is available for

3376 adoption. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-
 3377 county rates:

3378 (a) The market rate, including the minimum and the maximum
 3379 rates for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality
 3380 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adhere to its accrediting
 3381 association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
 3382 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~.

3383 (b) The market rate for child care providers that do not
 3384 hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

3385 (2) The market rate schedule, at a minimum, must:

3386 (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not
 3387 limited to, a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality
 3388 Care designation under s. 1002.945 and adheres to its
 3389 accrediting association's teacher-to-child ratios and group size
 3390 requirements ~~s. 402.281~~, a child care facility licensed under s.
 3391 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt from licensure
 3392 under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care facility exempt from
 3393 licensure under s. 402.316 that does not hold a Gold Seal
 3394 Quality Care designation, a large family child care home
 3395 licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home licensed
 3396 or registered under s. 402.313.

3397 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an
 3398 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.
 3399 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
 3400 average market rate ~~and~~ include the projected number of

3401 children to be served by each county, and be submitted for
 3402 approval by the department ~~office~~. Informal child care
 3403 arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of
 3404 the rate adopted for a family day care home.

3405 (5) The department ~~office~~ may contract with one or more
 3406 qualified entities to administer this section and provide
 3407 support and technical assistance for child care providers.

3408 (6) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules for establishing
 3409 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market
 3410 rate, the calculation of the prevailing ~~average~~ market rate by
 3411 program care level and provider type in a predetermined
 3412 geographic market, and the publication of the market rate
 3413 schedule.

3414 Section 56. Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3415 to read:

3416 1002.91 Investigations of fraud or overpayment;
 3417 penalties.—

3418 (1) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an
 3419 intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a
 3420 person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or
 3421 misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that
 3422 person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the
 3423 commission of such an act. The term includes any act that
 3424 constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.

3425 (2) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,

3426 | the department ~~office~~ shall investigate early learning
3427 | coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school readiness
3428 | program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
3429 | determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its own
3430 | inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the department ~~office~~
3431 | has reason to believe that a person, coalition, or provider has
3432 | engaged in, or is engaging in, a fraudulent act, it shall
3433 | investigate and determine whether any overpayment has occurred
3434 | due to the fraudulent act. During the investigation, the
3435 | department ~~office~~ may examine all records, including electronic
3436 | benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all persons who
3437 | may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental to the
3438 | disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits
3439 | authorizations to recipients.

3440 | (3) Based on the results of the investigation, the
3441 | department ~~office~~ may, in its discretion, refer the
3442 | investigation to the Department of Financial Services for
3443 | criminal investigation or refer the matter to the applicable
3444 | coalition. Any suspected criminal violation identified by the
3445 | department ~~office~~ must be referred to the Department of
3446 | Financial Services for criminal investigation.

3447 | (4) An early learning coalition may suspend or terminate a
3448 | provider from participation in the school readiness program or
3449 | the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has
3450 | reasonable cause to believe that the provider has committed

3451 fraud. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt by rule appropriate due
3452 process procedures that the early learning coalition shall apply
3453 in suspending or terminating any provider, including the
3454 suspension or termination of payment. If suspended, the provider
3455 shall remain suspended until the completion of any investigation
3456 by the department ~~office~~, the Department of Financial Services,
3457 or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent
3458 prosecution or other legal proceeding.

3459 (5) If a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary
3460 Prekindergarten Education Program provider, or an owner,
3461 officer, or director thereof, is convicted of, found guilty of,
3462 or pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of
3463 adjudication, public assistance fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, or
3464 is acting as the beneficial owner for someone who has been
3465 convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3466 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3467 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39, the early learning coalition shall
3468 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, that
3469 provider for a period of 5 years. In addition, the coalition
3470 shall refrain from contracting with, or using the services of,
3471 any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider
3472 that is convicted of, found guilty of, or pleads guilty or nolo
3473 contendere to, regardless of adjudication, public assistance
3474 fraud pursuant to s. 414.39 for a period of 5 years.

3475 (6) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise

3476 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation
3477 may be reported by the department ~~office~~ to the appropriate
3478 legislative committees, the Department of Children and Families,
3479 and such other persons as the department ~~office~~ deems
3480 appropriate.

3481 (7) The early learning coalition may not contract with a
3482 school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten
3483 Education Program provider who is on the United States
3484 Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. In
3485 addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that
3486 shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the
3487 United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified
3488 List.

3489 (8) Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-
3490 fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of
3491 overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and
3492 payment for school readiness program and Voluntary
3493 Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan
3494 to the department ~~office~~ for approval. The department ~~office~~
3495 shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the anti-fraud plan,
3496 including appropriate due process provisions. The anti-fraud
3497 plan must include, at a minimum:

3498 (a) A written description or chart outlining the
3499 organizational structure of the plan's personnel who are
3500 responsible for the investigation and reporting of possible

3501 overpayment, abuse, or fraud.

3502 (b) A description of the plan's procedures for detecting
3503 and investigating possible acts of fraud, abuse, or overpayment.

3504 (c) A description of the plan's procedures for the
3505 mandatory reporting of possible overpayment, abuse, or fraud to
3506 the Office of Inspector General within the department ~~office~~.

3507 (d) A description of the plan's program and procedures for
3508 educating and training personnel on how to detect and prevent
3509 fraud, abuse, and overpayment.

3510 (e) A description of the plan's procedures, including the
3511 appropriate due process provisions adopted by the department
3512 ~~office~~ for suspending or terminating from the school readiness
3513 program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program a
3514 recipient or provider who the early learning coalition believes
3515 has committed fraud.

3516 (9) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in
3517 this section is subject to the penalties provided in s.
3518 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

3519 Section 57. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraphs (a),
3520 (c), and (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.92, Florida
3521 Statutes, are amended to read:

3522 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
3523 referral.—

3524 (1) As a part of the school readiness program, the
3525 department ~~office~~ shall establish a statewide child care

3526 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides
 3527 referrals to families for child care and information on
 3528 available community resources. Preference shall be given to
 3529 using early learning coalitions as the child care resource and
 3530 referral agencies. If an early learning coalition cannot comply
 3531 with the requirements to offer the resource information
 3532 component or does not want to offer that service, the early
 3533 learning coalition shall select the resource and referral agency
 3534 for its county or multicounty region based upon the procurement
 3535 requirements of s. 1002.84(13) ~~s. 1002.84(12)~~.

3536 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency
 3537 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or
 3538 multicounty region. The department ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
 3539 regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral
 3540 services offered through child care resource and referral
 3541 agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at
 3542 a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents
 3543 may request services, and child care resource and referral staff
 3544 training requirements.

3545 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall
 3546 provide the following services:

3547 (a) Identification of existing public and private child
 3548 care and early childhood education services, including child
 3549 care services by public and private employers, and the
 3550 development of an early learning provider performance profile a

3551 ~~resource file~~ of those services through the single statewide
3552 information system developed by the department ~~office~~ under s.
3553 1002.82(2)(q) ~~s. 1002.82(2)(p)~~. These services may include
3554 family day care, public and private child care programs, the
3555 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the
3556 school readiness program, special education programs for
3557 prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for
3558 children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-
3559 time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and
3560 vacation care programs, ~~parent education, the temporary cash~~
3561 ~~assistance program, and related family support services~~. The
3562 early learning provider performance profile ~~resource file~~ shall
3563 include, but not be limited to:

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

3576 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,
3577 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,
3578 if applicable.

3579 11. The school readiness program assessment composite
3580 score and program assessment care level composite score results
3581 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and
3582 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

3583 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,
3584 if applicable.

3585 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a
3586 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the
3587 curriculum, if applicable.

3588 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment
3589 under s. 1002.82.

3590 (c) Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests for
3591 service tabulated through the internal referral process through
3592 the single statewide information system. The following
3593 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the
3594 child care resource and referral network:

3595 1. Number of calls and contacts to the child care resource
3596 information and referral network component by type of service
3597 requested.

3598 2. Ages of children for whom service was requested.

3599 3. Time category of child care requests for each child.

3600 4. Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and

3601 swing shift.

3602 5. Reason that the child care is needed.

3603 6. Customer service survey data required under s.

3604 1002.82(3) Name of the employer and primary focus of the
3605 business for an employer-based child care program.

3606 (d) Assistance to families that connects them to parent
3607 education opportunities, the temporary cash assistance program,
3608 or social services programs that support families with children,
3609 and related child development support services ~~Provision of~~
3610 ~~technical assistance to existing and potential providers of~~
3611 ~~child care services. This assistance may include:~~

3612 1. ~~Information on initiating new child care services,~~
3613 ~~zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in~~
3614 ~~finding such information from other sources.~~

3615 2. ~~Information and resources which help existing child~~
3616 ~~care services providers to maximize their ability to serve~~
3617 ~~children and parents in their community.~~

3618 3. ~~Information and incentives that may help existing or~~
3619 ~~planned child care services offered by public or private~~
3620 ~~employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the~~
3621 ~~children of their working parent employees in their community,~~
3622 ~~through contractual or other funding arrangements with~~
3623 ~~businesses.~~

3624 Section 58. Subsection (1) of section 1002.93, Florida
3625 Statutes, is amended to read:

3626 | 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

3627 | (1) The department ~~office~~ may authorize an early learning
 3628 | coalition to establish school readiness program transportation
 3629 | services for children at risk of abuse or neglect who are
 3630 | participating in the school readiness program, pursuant to
 3631 | chapter 427. The early learning coalitions may contract for the
 3632 | provision of transportation services as required by this
 3633 | section.

3634 | Section 59. Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, is
 3635 | repealed.

3636 | Section 60. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended
 3637 | to read:

3638 | 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
 3639 | scholarship program.—

3640 | (1) The department ~~office~~ may contract for the
 3641 | administration of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps
 3642 | (TEACH) scholarship program, which provides educational
 3643 | scholarships to caregivers and administrators of early childhood
 3644 | programs, family day care homes, and large family child care
 3645 | homes. The goal of the program is to increase the education and
 3646 | training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child
 3647 | caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the
 3648 | rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood
 3649 | education.

3650 | (2) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules

3651 as necessary to administer this section.

3652 Section 61. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.96,
3653 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3654 1002.96 Early Head Start collaboration grants.—

3655 (1) Contingent upon specific appropriation, the department
3656 ~~office~~ shall establish a program to award collaboration grants
3657 to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs
3658 through Early Head Start program federal grants. The
3659 collaboration grants shall provide the required matching funds
3660 for public and private nonprofit agencies that have been
3661 approved for Early Head Start program federal grants.

3662 (3) The department ~~office~~ may adopt rules as necessary for
3663 the award of collaboration grants to competing agencies and the
3664 administration of the collaboration grants program under this
3665 section.

3666 Section 62. Subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection
3667 (3) of section 1002.97, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3668 1002.97 Records of children in the school readiness
3669 program.—

3670 (1) The individual records of children enrolled in the
3671 school readiness program provided under this part, held by an
3672 early learning coalition or the department ~~office~~, are
3673 confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I
3674 of the State Constitution. For purposes of this section, records
3675 include assessment data, health data, records of teacher

3676 observations, and personal identifying information.

3677 (3) School readiness program records may be released to:

3678 (g) Parties to an interagency agreement among early
3679 learning coalitions, local governmental agencies, providers of
3680 the school readiness program, state agencies, and the department
3681 ~~office~~ for the purpose of implementing the school readiness
3682 program.

3683

3684 Agencies, organizations, or individuals that receive school
3685 readiness program records in order to carry out their official
3686 functions must protect the data in a manner that does not permit
3687 the personal identification of a child enrolled in a school
3688 readiness program and his or her parent by persons other than
3689 those authorized to receive the records.

3690 Section 63. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.995,
3691 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

3692 1002.995 Early learning professional development standards
3693 and career pathways.—

3694 (1) The department ~~office~~ shall:

3695 (a) Develop early learning professional development
3696 training and course standards to be utilized for school
3697 readiness program providers.

3698 (b) Identify both formal and informal early learning
3699 career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications
3700 that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized

3701 professional development that:

3702 1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.

3703 2. Aligns to established professional standards and core
3704 competencies.

3705 3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based
3706 stackable credentials and certifications.

3707 4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten
3708 readiness and early grade success.

3709 (3) The State Board of Education ~~office~~ shall adopt rules
3710 to administer this section.

3711 Section 64. Section 1007.01, Florida Statutes, is amended
3712 to read:

3713 1007.01 Articulation; legislative intent; purpose; role of
3714 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors;
3715 Articulation Coordinating Committee.—

3716 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate
3717 articulation and seamless integration of the Early Learning-20
3718 ~~K-20~~ education system by building, sustaining, and strengthening
3719 relationships among Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ public organizations,
3720 between public and private organizations, and between the
3721 education system as a whole and Florida's communities. The
3722 purpose of building, sustaining, and strengthening these
3723 relationships is to provide for the efficient and effective
3724 progression and transfer of students within the education system
3725 and to allow students to proceed toward their educational

3726 objectives as rapidly as their circumstances permit. The
3727 Legislature further intends that articulation policies and
3728 budget actions be implemented consistently in the practices of
3729 the Department of Education and postsecondary educational
3730 institutions and expressed in the collaborative policy efforts
3731 of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3732 (2) To improve and facilitate articulation systemwide, the
3733 State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall
3734 collaboratively establish and adopt policies with input from
3735 statewide K-20 advisory groups established by the Commissioner
3736 of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System
3737 and shall recommend the policies to the Legislature. The
3738 policies shall relate to:

3739 (a) The alignment between the exit requirements of one
3740 education system and the admissions requirements of another
3741 education system into which students typically transfer.

3742 (b) The identification of common courses, the level of
3743 courses, institutional participation in a statewide course
3744 numbering system, and the transferability of credits among such
3745 institutions.

3746 (c) Identification of courses that meet general education
3747 or common degree program prerequisite requirements at public
3748 postsecondary educational institutions.

3749 (d) Dual enrollment course equivalencies.

3750 (e) Articulation agreements.

3751 (3) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with
3752 the Chancellor of the State University System, shall establish
3753 the Articulation Coordinating Committee, which shall make
3754 recommendations related to statewide articulation policies and
3755 issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data
3756 maintained by the educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse, established
3757 pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and 1008.31, to the Higher Education
3758 Coordination Council, the State Board of Education, and the
3759 Board of Governors. The committee shall consist of two members
3760 each representing the State University System, the Florida
3761 College System, public career and technical education, K-12
3762 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member
3763 representing students. The chair shall be elected from the
3764 membership. The Office of K-20 Articulation shall provide
3765 administrative support for the committee. The committee shall:

3766 (a) Monitor the alignment between the exit requirements of
3767 one education system and the admissions requirements of another
3768 education system into which students typically transfer and make
3769 recommendations for improvement.

3770 (b) Propose guidelines for interinstitutional agreements
3771 between and among public schools, career and technical education
3772 centers, Florida College System institutions, state
3773 universities, and nonpublic postsecondary institutions.

3774 (c) Annually recommend dual enrollment course and high
3775 school subject area equivalencies for approval by the State

3776 Board of Education and the Board of Governors.

3777 (d) Annually review the statewide articulation agreement
3778 pursuant to s. 1007.23 and make recommendations for revisions.

3779 (e) Annually review the statewide course numbering system,
3780 the levels of courses, and the application of transfer credit
3781 requirements among public and nonpublic institutions
3782 participating in the statewide course numbering system and
3783 identify instances of student transfer and admissions
3784 difficulties.

3785 (f) Annually publish a list of courses that meet common
3786 general education and common degree program prerequisite
3787 requirements at public postsecondary institutions identified
3788 pursuant to s. 1007.25.

3789 (g) Foster timely collection and reporting of statewide
3790 education data to improve the Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education
3791 performance accountability system pursuant to ss. 1001.10 and
3792 1008.31, including, but not limited to, data quality,
3793 accessibility, and protection of student records.

3794 (h) Recommend roles and responsibilities of public
3795 education entities in interfacing with the single, statewide
3796 computer-assisted student advising system established pursuant
3797 to s. 1006.735.

3798 Section 65. Section 1008.2125, Florida Statutes, is
3799 created to read:

3800 1008.2125 Coordinated screening and progress monitoring

3801 program for students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
3802 Program through grade 3.—

3803 (1) The primary purpose of the coordinated screening and
3804 progress monitoring program for students in the Voluntary
3805 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 is to provide
3806 information on students' progress in mastering the appropriate
3807 grade-level standards and to provide information on their
3808 progress to parents, teachers, and school and program
3809 administrators. Data shall be used by Voluntary Prekindergarten
3810 Education Program providers and school districts to improve
3811 instruction, by parents and teachers to guide learning
3812 objectives and provide timely and appropriate supports and
3813 interventions to students not meeting grade level expectations,
3814 and by the public to assess the cost benefit of the expenditure
3815 of taxpayer dollars. The coordinated screening and progress
3816 monitoring program must:

3817 (a) Measure student progress in the Voluntary
3818 Prekindergarten Education Program through grade 3 in meeting the
3819 appropriate expectations in early literacy and math skills and
3820 in English Language Arts and mathematics, as required by ss.
3821 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41.

3822 (b) Provide data for accountability of the Voluntary
3823 Prekindergarten Education Program, as required by s. 1002.68.

3824 (c) Provide baseline data to the department of each
3825 student's readiness for kindergarten, which must be based on

3826 each kindergarten students progress monitoring results that was
3827 administered no later than the first 30 instructional days in
3828 accordance with paragraph (2) (a). The methodology for
3829 determining a student's readiness for kindergarten shall be
3830 developed by the department and aligned to the methodology
3831 adopted pursuant to s. 1002.68(4).

3832 (d) Identify the educational strengths and needs of
3833 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3834 through grade 3.

3835 (e) Provide teachers with progress monitoring data to
3836 provide timely interventions and supports pursuant to s.
3837 1008.25(4).

3838 (f) Assess how well educational goals and curricular
3839 standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state
3840 levels.

3841 (g) Provide information to aid in the evaluation and
3842 development of educational programs and policies.

3843 (2) The Commissioner of Education shall design a
3844 statewide, standardized coordinated screening and progress
3845 monitoring program to assess early literacy and mathematics
3846 skills and the English Language Arts and mathematics standards
3847 established in ss. 1002.67(1) (a) and 1003.41, respectively. The
3848 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program must
3849 provide interval level and norm-referenced data that measures
3850 equivalent levels of growth; be a developmentally appropriate,

3851 valid, and reliable direct assessment; be able to capture data
3852 on students who may be performing below grade or developmental
3853 level and which may enable the identification of early
3854 indicators of dyslexia or other developmental delays; accurately
3855 measure the core content in the applicable grade level
3856 standards; document learning gains for the achievement of these
3857 standards; and provide teachers with progress monitoring
3858 supports and materials that enhance differentiated instruction
3859 and parent communication. Participation in the coordinated
3860 screening and progress monitoring program is mandatory for all
3861 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
3862 enrolled in a public school in kindergarten through grade 3. The
3863 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program shall be
3864 implemented beginning in the 2022-2023 school year for students
3865 in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and
3866 kindergarten students, as follows:

3867 (a) The coordinated screening and progress monitoring
3868 program shall be administered within the first 30 days after
3869 enrollment, midyear, and within the last 30 days of the program
3870 or school year, in accordance with the rules adopted by the
3871 State Board of Education. The state board may adopt alternate
3872 timeframes to address nontraditional school year calendars or
3873 summer programs to ensure the coordinated screening and progress
3874 monitoring program is administered a minimum of 3 times within a
3875 year or program.

3876 (b) The results of the coordinated screening and progress
3877 monitoring program shall be reported to the department, in
3878 accordance with the rules adopted by the state board, and
3879 maintained in the department's educational data warehouse.

3880 (3) The Commissioner of Education shall:

3881 (a) Develop a plan, in coordination with the Council for
3882 Early Grade Success, for implementing the coordinated screening
3883 and progress monitoring program in consideration of timelines
3884 for implementing new early literacy and mathematics skills and
3885 the English Language Arts and mathematics standards established
3886 in ss. 1002.67(1)(a) and 1003.41, as appropriate.

3887 (b) Provide data, reports, and information as requested to
3888 the Council for Early Grade Success.

3889 (4) The Council for Early Grade Success, a council as
3890 defined in s. 20.03(7), is created within the Department of
3891 Education to oversee the coordinated screening and progress
3892 monitoring program and, except as otherwise provided in this
3893 section, shall operate consistent with s. 20.052.

3894 (a) The council shall be responsible for reviewing the
3895 implementation of, training for, and outcomes from the
3896 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program to provide
3897 recommendations to the department that support grade 3 students
3898 reading at or above grade level. The council, at a minimum,
3899 shall:

3900 1. Provide recommendations on the implementation of the

3901 coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, including
3902 reviewing any procurement solicitation documents and criteria
3903 before being published.

3904 2. Develop training plans and timelines for such training.

3905 3. Identify appropriate personnel, processes, and
3906 procedures required for the administration of the coordinated
3907 screening and progress monitoring program.

3908 4. Provide input on the methodology for calculating a
3909 provider's or school's performance metric and designations under
3910 s. 1002.68(4).

3911 5. Work with the department to review the methodology for
3912 determining a child's kindergarten readiness.

3913 6. Review data on age-appropriate learning gains by grade
3914 level that a student would need to attain in order to
3915 demonstrate proficiency in reading by grade 3.

3916 7. Continually review anonymized data from the results of
3917 the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for
3918 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
3919 through grade 3 to help inform recommendations to the department
3920 that support practices that will enable grade 3 students to read
3921 at or above grade level.

3922 (b) The council shall be composed of 17 members who are
3923 residents of the state and appointed as follows:

3924 1. Three members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

3925 a. One representative from the Department of Education.

- 3926 b. One parent of a child who is 4 to 9 years of age.
- 3927 c. One representative that is an elementary school
- 3928 administrator.
- 3929 2. Seven members appointed by the President of the Senate,
- 3930 as follows:
- 3931 a. One senator who serves at the pleasure of the President
- 3932 of the Senate.
- 3933 b. One representative of an urban school district.
- 3934 c. One representative of a rural early learning coalition.
- 3935 d. One representative of a faith-based early learning
- 3936 provider who offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
- 3937 Program.
- 3938 e. One representative who is a second grade teacher who
- 3939 has at least 5 years of teaching experience.
- 3940 f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in
- 3941 early learning, early grade success, or child assessments.
- 3942 3. Seven members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 3943 Representatives, as follows:
- 3944 a. One member of the House of Representatives who serves
- 3945 at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House.
- 3946 b. One representative of a rural school district.
- 3947 c. One representative of an urban early learning
- 3948 coalition.
- 3949 d. One representative of an early learning provider who
- 3950 offers the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

3951 e. One member who is a kindergarten teacher who has at
3952 least 5 years of teaching experience.

3953 f. Two representatives with subject matter expertise in
3954 early learning, early grade success, or child assessment.

3955 4. The four representatives with subject matter expertise
3956 in sub-sub-paragraphs 2.f. and 3.f. may not be direct
3957 stakeholders within the early learning or public school systems.

3958 (5) The council shall elect a chair and vice chair, one of
3959 whom must be a member who has subject matter expertise in early
3960 learning, early grade success, or child assessments. The vice
3961 chair must be a member appointed by the President of the Senate
3962 or the Speaker of the House of Representatives who is not one of
3963 the four members with subject matter expertise in early
3964 learning, early grade success, or child assessments appointed
3965 pursuant to sub-sub-paragraphs (4)(b)2.f. and (4)(b)3.f. Members
3966 of the council shall serve without compensation but are entitled
3967 to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.
3968 112.061.

3969 (6) The council must meet at least biannually and may meet
3970 by teleconference or other electronic means, if possible, to
3971 reduce costs.

3972 (7) A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

3973 Section 66. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of
3974 section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
3975 paragraphs (c) and (d), respectively, paragraph (b) of

3976 subsection (6), subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection
3977 (8) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection
3978 (5) of that section, to read:

3979 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
3980 support; reporting requirements.—

3981 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

3982 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student
3983 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills
3984 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and
3985 based upon the results of the administration of the final
3986 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.2125
3987 shall be referred to the local school district and may be
3988 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before
3989 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading
3990 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's
3991 research-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with
3992 s. 1011.62(9).

3993 (6) ELIMINATION OF SOCIAL PROMOTION.—

3994 (b) The district school board may only exempt students
3995 from mandatory retention, as provided in paragraph (5)(c)
3996 ~~(5)(b)~~, for good cause. A student who is promoted to grade 4
3997 with a good cause exemption shall be provided intensive reading
3998 instruction and intervention that include specialized diagnostic
3999 information and specific reading strategies to meet the needs of
4000 each student so promoted. The school district shall assist

4001 schools and teachers with the implementation of explicit,
4002 systematic, and multisensory reading instruction and
4003 intervention strategies for students promoted with a good cause
4004 exemption which research has shown to be successful in improving
4005 reading among students who have reading difficulties. Good cause
4006 exemptions are limited to the following:

4007 1. Limited English proficient students who have had less
4008 than 2 years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other
4009 Languages program based on the initial date of entry into a
4010 school in the United States.

4011 2. Students with disabilities whose individual education
4012 plan indicates that participation in the statewide assessment
4013 program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of
4014 s. 1008.212.

4015 3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of
4016 performance on an alternative standardized reading or English
4017 Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of
4018 Education.

4019 4. A student who demonstrates through a student portfolio
4020 that he or she is performing at least at Level 2 on the
4021 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.

4022 5. Students with disabilities who take the statewide,
4023 standardized English Language Arts assessment and who have an
4024 individual education plan or a Section 504 plan that reflects
4025 that the student has received intensive instruction in reading

4026 or English Language Arts for more than 2 years but still
4027 demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in
4028 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

4029 6. Students who have received intensive reading
4030 intervention for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a
4031 deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in
4032 kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2
4033 years. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

4034 (7) SUCCESSFUL PROGRESSION FOR RETAINED THIRD GRADE
4035 STUDENTS.—

4036 (a) Students retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ must
4037 be provided intensive interventions in reading to ameliorate the
4038 student's specific reading deficiency and prepare the student
4039 for promotion to the next grade. These interventions must
4040 include:

4041 1. Evidence-based, explicit, systematic, and multisensory
4042 reading instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency,
4043 vocabulary, and comprehension and other strategies prescribed by
4044 the school district.

4045 2. Participation in the school district's summer reading
4046 camp, which must incorporate the instructional and intervention
4047 strategies under subparagraph 1.

4048 3. A minimum of 90 minutes of daily, uninterrupted reading
4049 instruction incorporating the instructional and intervention
4050 strategies under subparagraph 1. This instruction may include:

- 4051 a. Integration of content-rich texts in science and social
 4052 studies within the 90-minute block.
- 4053 b. Small group instruction.
- 4054 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.
- 4055 d. More frequent progress monitoring.
- 4056 e. Tutoring or mentoring.
- 4057 f. Transition classes containing 3rd and 4th grade
 4058 students.
- 4059 g. Extended school day, week, or year.
- 4060 (b) Each school district shall:
- 4061 1. Provide written notification to the parent of a student
 4062 who is retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ that his or her
 4063 child has not met the proficiency level required for promotion
 4064 and the reasons the child is not eligible for a good cause
 4065 exemption as provided in paragraph (6) (b). The notification must
 4066 comply with paragraph (5) (d) ~~(5) (e)~~ and must include a
 4067 description of proposed interventions and supports that will be
 4068 provided to the child to remediate the identified areas of
 4069 reading deficiency.
- 4070 2. Implement a policy for the midyear promotion of a
 4071 student retained under paragraph (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~ who can
 4072 demonstrate that he or she is a successful and independent
 4073 reader and performing at or above grade level in reading or,
 4074 upon implementation of English Language Arts assessments,
 4075 performing at or above grade level in English Language Arts.

4076 Tools that school districts may use in reevaluating a student
4077 retained may include subsequent assessments, alternative
4078 assessments, and portfolio reviews, in accordance with rules of
4079 the State Board of Education. Students promoted during the
4080 school year after November 1 must demonstrate proficiency levels
4081 in reading equivalent to the level necessary for the beginning
4082 of grade 4. The rules adopted by the State Board of Education
4083 must include standards that provide a reasonable expectation
4084 that the student's progress is sufficient to master appropriate
4085 grade 4 level reading skills.

4086 3. Provide students who are retained under paragraph
4087 (5) (c) ~~(5) (b)~~, including students participating in the school
4088 district's summer reading camp under subparagraph (a)2., with a
4089 highly effective teacher as determined by the teacher's
4090 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, and, beginning July 1,
4091 2020, the teacher must also be certified or endorsed in reading.

4092 4. Establish at each school, when applicable, an intensive
4093 reading acceleration course for any student retained in grade 3
4094 who was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, or grade
4095 2. The intensive reading acceleration course must provide the
4096 following:

4097 a. Uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of
4098 student contact time each day and opportunities to master the
4099 grade 4 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in other core
4100 subject areas through content-rich texts.

- 4101 b. Small group instruction.
- 4102 c. Reduced teacher-student ratios.
- 4103 d. The use of explicit, systematic, and multisensory
- 4104 reading interventions, including intensive language, phonics,
- 4105 and vocabulary instruction, and use of a speech-language
- 4106 therapist if necessary, that have proven results in accelerating
- 4107 student reading achievement within the same school year.
- 4108 e. A read-at-home plan.

4109 (8) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4110 (a) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (5)(c)

4111 ~~(5)(b)~~, each district school board must annually report to the

4112 parent of each student the progress of the student toward

4113 achieving state and district expectations for proficiency in

4114 English Language Arts, science, social studies, and mathematics.

4115 The district school board must report to the parent the

4116 student's results on each statewide, standardized assessment.

4117 The evaluation of each student's progress must be based upon the

4118 student's classroom work, observations, tests, district and

4119 state assessments, response to intensive interventions provided

4120 under paragraph (5)(a), and other relevant information. Progress

4121 reporting must be provided to the parent in writing in a format

4122 adopted by the district school board.

4123 Section 67. Section 1008.31, Florida Statutes, is amended

4124 to read:

4125 1008.31 Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education

4126 performance accountability system; legislative intent; mission,
 4127 goals, and systemwide measures; data quality improvements.—

4128 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the
 4129 Legislature that:

4130 (a) The performance accountability system implemented to
 4131 assess the effectiveness of Florida's seamless Early Learning-20
 4132 ~~K-20~~ education delivery system provide answers to the following
 4133 questions in relation to its mission and goals:

4134 1. What is the public receiving in return for funds it
 4135 invests in education?

4136 2. How effectively is Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~
 4137 education system educating its students?

4138 3. How effectively are the major delivery sectors
 4139 promoting student achievement?

4140 4. How are individual schools and postsecondary education
 4141 institutions performing their responsibility to educate their
 4142 students as measured by how students are performing and how much
 4143 they are learning?

4144 (b) The Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education performance
 4145 accountability system be established as a single, unified
 4146 accountability system with multiple components, including, but
 4147 not limited to, student performance in public schools and school
 4148 and district grades.

4149 (c) The K-20 education performance accountability system
 4150 comply with the requirements of the "No Child Left Behind Act of

4151 2001," Pub. L. No. 107-110, and the Individuals with
 4152 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

4153 (d) The early learning accountability system comply with
 4154 the requirements of part V and part VI of chapter 1002 and the
 4155 requirements of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust
 4156 Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99.

4157 (e)~~(d)~~ The State Board of Education and the Board of
 4158 Governors of the State University System recommend to the
 4159 Legislature systemwide performance standards; the Legislature
 4160 establish systemwide performance measures and standards; and the
 4161 systemwide measures and standards provide Floridians with
 4162 information on what the public is receiving in return for the
 4163 funds it invests in education and how well the Early Learning-20
 4164 ~~K-20~~ system educates its students.

4165 (f)1.~~(e)1.~~ The State Board of Education establish
 4166 performance measures and set performance standards for
 4167 individual public schools and Florida College System
 4168 institutions, with measures and standards based primarily on
 4169 student achievement.

4170 2. The Board of Governors of the State University System
 4171 establish performance measures and set performance standards for
 4172 individual state universities, including actual completion
 4173 rates.

4174 (2) MISSION, GOALS, AND SYSTEMWIDE MEASURES.—

4175 (a) The mission of Florida's Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~

4176 education system shall be to increase the proficiency of all
 4177 students within one seamless, efficient system, by allowing them
 4178 the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through
 4179 learning opportunities and research valued by students, parents,
 4180 and communities.

4181 (b) The process for establishing state and sector-specific
 4182 standards and measures must be:

- 4183 1. Focused on student success.
- 4184 2. Addressable through policy and program changes.
- 4185 3. Efficient and of high quality.
- 4186 4. Measurable over time.
- 4187 5. Simple to explain and display to the public.
- 4188 6. Aligned with other measures and other sectors to
 4189 support a coordinated Early Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ education system.

4190 (c) The Department of Education shall maintain an
 4191 accountability system that measures student progress toward the
 4192 following goals:

- 4193 1. Highest student achievement, as indicated by evidence
 4194 of student learning gains at all levels.
- 4195 2. Seamless articulation and maximum access, as measured
 4196 by evidence of progression, readiness, and access by targeted
 4197 groups of students identified by the Commissioner of Education.
- 4198 3. Skilled workforce and economic development, as measured
 4199 by evidence of employment and earnings.
- 4200 4. Quality efficient services, as measured by evidence of

4201 return on investment.

4202 5. Other goals as identified by law or rule.

4203 (3) ~~K-20~~ EDUCATION DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS.—To provide
 4204 data required to implement education performance accountability
 4205 measures in state and federal law, the Commissioner of Education
 4206 shall initiate and maintain strategies to improve data quality
 4207 and timeliness. The Board of Governors shall make available to
 4208 the department all data within the State University Database
 4209 System to be integrated into the educational ~~K-20~~ data
 4210 warehouse. The commissioner shall have unlimited access to such
 4211 data for the purposes of conducting studies, reporting annual
 4212 and longitudinal student outcomes, and improving college
 4213 readiness and articulation. All public educational institutions
 4214 shall annually provide data from the prior year to the
 4215 educational ~~K-20~~ data warehouse in a format based on data
 4216 elements identified by the commissioner.

4217 (a) School districts and public postsecondary educational
 4218 institutions shall maintain information systems that will
 4219 provide the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of
 4220 the State University System, and the Legislature with
 4221 information and reports necessary to address the specifications
 4222 of the accountability system. The level of comprehensiveness and
 4223 quality must be no less than that which was available as of June
 4224 30, 2001.

4225 (b) Colleges and universities eligible to participate in

4226 | the William L. Boyd, IV, Effective Access to Student Education
4227 | Grant Program shall annually report student-level data from the
4228 | prior year for each student who receives state funds in a format
4229 | prescribed by the Department of Education. At a minimum, data
4230 | from the prior year must include retention rates, transfer
4231 | rates, completion rates, graduation rates, employment and
4232 | placement rates, and earnings of graduates. By October 1 of each
4233 | year, the colleges and universities described in this paragraph
4234 | shall report the data to the department.

4235 | (c) The Commissioner of Education shall determine the
4236 | standards for the required data, monitor data quality, and
4237 | measure improvements. The commissioner shall report annually to
4238 | the State Board of Education, the Board of Governors of the
4239 | State University System, the President of the Senate, and the
4240 | Speaker of the House of Representatives data quality indicators
4241 | and ratings for all school districts and public postsecondary
4242 | educational institutions.

4243 | (d) Before establishing any new reporting or data
4244 | collection requirements, the commissioner shall use existing
4245 | data being collected to reduce duplication and minimize
4246 | paperwork.

4247 | (4) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
4248 | pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement the
4249 | provisions of this section relating to the educational ~~K-20~~ data
4250 | warehouse.

4251 Section 68. Section 1008.32, Florida Statutes, is amended
 4252 to read:

4253 1008.32 State Board of Education oversight enforcement
 4254 authority.—The State Board of Education shall oversee the
 4255 performance of early learning coalitions, district school
 4256 boards, and Florida College System institution boards of
 4257 trustees in enforcement of all laws and rules. District school
 4258 boards and Florida College System institution boards of trustees
 4259 shall be primarily responsible for compliance with law and state
 4260 board rule.

4261 (1) In order to ensure compliance with law or state board
 4262 rule, the State Board of Education shall have the authority to
 4263 request and receive information, data, and reports from early
 4264 learning coalitions, school districts, and Florida College
 4265 System institutions. Early learning coalition chief executive
 4266 officers or executive directors, district school
 4267 superintendents, and Florida College System institution
 4268 presidents are responsible for the accuracy of the information
 4269 and data reported to the state board.

4270 (2) (a) The Commissioner of Education may investigate
 4271 allegations of noncompliance with law or state board rule and
 4272 determine probable cause. The commissioner shall report
 4273 determinations of probable cause to the State Board of Education
 4274 which shall require the early learning coalition, district
 4275 school board, or Florida College System institution board of

4276 trustees to document compliance with law or state board rule.

4277 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall report to the
 4278 State Board of Education any findings by the Auditor General
 4279 that an early learning coalition, ~~a~~ district school board, or
 4280 Florida College System institution is acting without statutory
 4281 authority or contrary to general law. The State Board of
 4282 Education shall require the early learning coalition, district
 4283 school board, or Florida College System institution board of
 4284 trustees to document compliance with such law.

4285 (3) If the early learning coalition, district school
 4286 board, or Florida College System institution board of trustees
 4287 cannot satisfactorily document compliance, the State Board of
 4288 Education may order compliance within a specified timeframe.

4289 (4) If the State Board of Education determines that an
 4290 early learning coalition, ~~a~~ district school board, or Florida
 4291 College System institution board of trustees is unwilling or
 4292 unable to comply with law or state board rule within the
 4293 specified time, the state board shall have the authority to
 4294 initiate any of the following actions:

4295 (a) Report to the Legislature that the early learning
 4296 coalition, school district, or Florida College System
 4297 institution is unwilling or unable to comply with law or state
 4298 board rule and recommend action to be taken by the Legislature.

4299 (b) Withhold the transfer of state funds, discretionary
 4300 grant funds, discretionary lottery funds, or any other funds

4301 specified as eligible for this purpose by the Legislature until
 4302 the early learning coalition, school district, or Florida
 4303 College System institution complies with the law or state board
 4304 rule.

4305 (c) Declare the early learning coalition, school district,
 4306 or Florida College System institution ineligible for competitive
 4307 grants.

4308 (d) Require monthly or periodic reporting on the situation
 4309 related to noncompliance until it is remedied.

4310 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a
 4311 private cause of action or create any rights for individuals or
 4312 entities in addition to those provided elsewhere in law or rule.

4313 Section 69. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 4314 1008.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

4315 1008.33 Authority to enforce public school improvement.—

4316 (3) (a) The academic performance of all students has a
 4317 significant effect on the state school system. Pursuant to Art.
 4318 IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes the duty of the
 4319 State Board of Education to supervise Florida's public school
 4320 system, the state board shall equitably enforce the
 4321 accountability requirements of the state school system and may
 4322 impose state requirements on school districts in order to
 4323 improve the academic performance of all districts, schools, and
 4324 students based upon the provisions of the Florida Early
 4325 Learning-20 ~~K-20~~ Education Code, chapters 1000-1013; the federal

4326 ESEA and its implementing regulations; and the ESEA flexibility
 4327 waiver approved for Florida by the United States Secretary of
 4328 Education.

4329 Section 70. Subsection (9) of section 1011.62, Florida
 4330 Statutes, is amended to read:

4331 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
 4332 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
 4333 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
 4334 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
 4335 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
 4336 follows:

4337 (9) RESEARCH-BASED READING INSTRUCTION ALLOCATION.—

4338 (a) The research-based reading instruction allocation is
 4339 created to provide comprehensive reading instruction to students
 4340 in kindergarten through grade 12, including certain students who
 4341 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
 4342 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s.
 4343 1008.25(5)(b). Each school district that has one or more of the
 4344 300 lowest-performing elementary schools based on a 3-year
 4345 average of the state reading assessment data must use the
 4346 school's portion of the allocation to provide an additional hour
 4347 per day of intensive reading instruction for the students in
 4348 each school. The additional hour may be provided within the
 4349 school day. Students enrolled in these schools who earned a
 4350 level 4 or level 5 score on the statewide, standardized English

4351 Language Arts assessment for the previous school year may
4352 participate in the additional hour of instruction. Exceptional
4353 student education centers may not be included in the 300
4354 schools. The intensive reading instruction delivered in this
4355 additional hour shall include: research-based reading
4356 instruction that has been proven to accelerate progress of
4357 students exhibiting a reading deficiency; differentiated
4358 instruction based on screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring,
4359 or student assessment data to meet students' specific reading
4360 needs; explicit and systematic reading strategies to develop
4361 phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and
4362 comprehension, with more extensive opportunities for guided
4363 practice, error correction, and feedback; and the integration of
4364 social studies, science, and mathematics-text reading, text
4365 discussion, and writing in response to reading.

4366 (b) Funds for comprehensive, research-based reading
4367 instruction shall be allocated annually to each school district
4368 in the amount provided in the General Appropriations Act. Each
4369 eligible school district shall receive the same minimum amount
4370 as specified in the General Appropriations Act, and any
4371 remaining funds shall be distributed to eligible school
4372 districts based on each school district's proportionate share of
4373 K-12 base funding.

4374 (c) Funds allocated under this subsection must be used to
4375 provide a system of comprehensive reading instruction to

4376 students enrolled in the K-12 programs and certain students who
4377 exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy and completed
4378 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
4379 1008.25(5)(b), which may include the following:

4380 1. An additional hour per day of evidence-based intensive
4381 reading instruction to students in the 300 lowest-performing
4382 elementary schools by teachers and reading specialists who have
4383 demonstrated effectiveness in teaching reading as required in
4384 paragraph (a).

4385 2. Kindergarten through grade 5 evidence-based ~~reading~~
4386 ~~intervention teachers to provide~~ intensive reading interventions
4387 provided by reading intervention teachers ~~intervention~~ during
4388 the school day and in the required extra hour for students
4389 identified as having a reading deficiency.

4390 3. Highly qualified reading coaches to specifically
4391 support teachers in making instructional decisions based on
4392 student data, and improve teacher delivery of effective reading
4393 instruction, intervention, and reading in the content areas
4394 based on student need.

4395 4. Professional development for school district teachers
4396 in scientifically based reading instruction, including
4397 strategies to teach reading in content areas and with an
4398 emphasis on technical and informational text, to help school
4399 district teachers earn a certification or an endorsement in
4400 reading.

4401 5. Summer reading camps, using only teachers or other
4402 district personnel who are certified or endorsed in reading
4403 consistent with s. 1008.25(7)(b)3., for all students in
4404 kindergarten through grade 2 who demonstrate a reading
4405 deficiency as determined by district and state assessments, ~~and~~
4406 students in grades 3 through 5 who score at Level 1 on the
4407 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment, and
4408 certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early
4409 literacy and completed the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
4410 Program under s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4411 6. Scientifically researched and evidence-based
4412 supplemental instructional materials ~~that are grounded in~~
4413 ~~scientifically based reading research~~ as identified by the Just
4414 Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8).

4415 7. Evidence-based intensive interventions for students in
4416 kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having
4417 a reading deficiency or who are reading below grade level as
4418 determined by the statewide, standardized English Language Arts
4419 assessment or for certain students who exhibit a substantial
4420 deficiency in early literacy and completed the Voluntary
4421 Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1008.25(5)(b).

4422 (d)1. Annually, by a date determined by the Department of
4423 Education but before May 1, school districts shall submit a ~~K-12~~
4424 comprehensive reading plan for the specific use of the research-
4425 based reading instruction allocation in the format prescribed by

4426 | the department for review and approval by the Just Read,
4427 | Florida! Office created pursuant to s. 1001.215. The plan
4428 | annually submitted by school districts shall be deemed approved
4429 | unless the department rejects the plan on or before June 1. If a
4430 | school district and the Just Read, Florida! Office cannot reach
4431 | agreement on the contents of the plan, the school district may
4432 | appeal to the State Board of Education for resolution. School
4433 | districts shall be allowed reasonable flexibility in designing
4434 | their plans and shall be encouraged to offer reading
4435 | intervention through innovative methods, including career
4436 | academies. The plan format shall be developed with input from
4437 | school district personnel, including teachers and principals,
4438 | and shall provide for intensive reading interventions through
4439 | integrated curricula, provided that, beginning with the 2020-
4440 | 2021 school year, the interventions are delivered by a teacher
4441 | who is certified or endorsed in reading. Such interventions must
4442 | incorporate evidence-based strategies identified by the Just
4443 | Read, Florida! Office pursuant to s. 1001.215(8). No later than
4444 | July 1 annually, the department shall release the school
4445 | district's allocation of appropriated funds to those districts
4446 | having approved plans. A school district that spends 100 percent
4447 | of this allocation on its approved plan shall be deemed to have
4448 | been in compliance with the plan. The department may withhold
4449 | funds upon a determination that reading instruction allocation
4450 | funds are not being used to implement the approved plan. The

4451 department shall monitor and track the implementation of each
4452 district plan, including conducting site visits and collecting
4453 specific data on expenditures and reading improvement results.
4454 By February 1 of each year, the department shall report its
4455 findings to the Legislature.

4456 2. Each school district that has a school designated as
4457 one of the 300 lowest-performing elementary schools as specified
4458 in paragraph (a) shall specifically delineate in the
4459 comprehensive reading plan, or in an addendum to the
4460 comprehensive reading plan, the implementation design and
4461 reading intervention strategies that will be used for the
4462 required additional hour of reading instruction. The term
4463 "reading intervention" includes evidence-based strategies
4464 frequently used to remediate reading deficiencies and also
4465 includes individual instruction, tutoring, mentoring, or the use
4466 of technology that targets specific reading skills and
4467 abilities.

4468
4469 For purposes of this subsection, the term "evidence-based" means
4470 demonstrating a statistically significant effect on improving
4471 student outcomes or other relevant outcomes.

4472 Section 71. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.