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1  
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

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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;

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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



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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

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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

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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;

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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

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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

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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

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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,



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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

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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

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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,

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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:

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- 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.

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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

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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

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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



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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

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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;

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- 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,

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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



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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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.



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- 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.

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- 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

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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

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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

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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

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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:

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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

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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



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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

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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.

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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-

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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

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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:~~

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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

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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

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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



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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.

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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

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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 (1) 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.

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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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



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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

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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

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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

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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~~

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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

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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~~

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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).~~

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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.—



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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

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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-

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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

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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

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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).

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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

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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

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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.



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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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,

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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

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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



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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

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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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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

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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.~~

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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



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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

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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

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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

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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.

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- 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.

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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

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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:

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2576 1. Provide interval level and norm-referenced ~~crit~~  
 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



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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.~~



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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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:

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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

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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

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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,



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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

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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~~

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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

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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).

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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

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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

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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

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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



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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

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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

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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

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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)~~

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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

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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

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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

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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



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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,

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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



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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:

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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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

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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



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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

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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,

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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.

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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

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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.

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- 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.

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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

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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



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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

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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:

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- 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.

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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.

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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

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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

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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~~

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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



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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

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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.

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.



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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

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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

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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.