



26 school readiness program to each early learning coalition is not  
27 determined in the annual appropriations act or the substantive  
28 bill implementing the annual appropriations act, it shall be  
29 determined as follows:

30 (a) Computation of the basic amount to be included for  
31 operation.—The following procedures shall be used in determining  
32 the annual allocation to each early learning coalition for  
33 operation of the school readiness program:

34 1. Determination of full-time equivalent population.—The  
35 department shall annually request from the Office of Economic  
36 and Demographic Research the number of families by each county  
37 who have children ages birth to 5 years old whose family income  
38 is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level or 85 percent  
39 of the state median family income, whichever is available. This  
40 data shall be used by the Early Learning Programs Estimating  
41 Conference pursuant to s. 216.136.

42 2. Determination of care level costs.—Annual cost factors  
43 based on the relative cost differences between the following  
44 basic care levels shall be established in the General  
45 Appropriations Act using data submitted from the department  
46 under s. 1002.90:

- 47 a. Infant care.  
48 b. Toddler care.  
49 c. Two-year-old care.  
50 d. Three-year-old care.

- 51 e. Four-year-old care.
- 52 f. Five-year-old care.
- 53 g. School-age care.

54

55 For Pinellas County, the care level cost for an infant shall be  
 56 based on the infant care level cost of 1.33, the care level cost  
 57 for a toddler shall be based on the toddler care level cost of  
 58 1.20, and the care level cost for a 2 year old shall be based on  
 59 the 2-year-old care level cost of 1.10. Any county that passes a  
 60 local ordinance after January 1, 2022, that limits its child  
 61 care teacher-to-child ratio below the ratio required by s.  
 62 402.305 shall be responsible for the cost of the child care  
 63 market impact of that ordinance.

64 3. Determination of county price level index  
 65 differentials.—The department shall annually compute for each  
 66 county a current year's price level index differential. The  
 67 price level index differential shall be calculated by adding  
 68 each county's price level index as published in the Florida  
 69 Price Level Index for the most recent 3 years and dividing the  
 70 resulting sum by 3.

71 4. Determination of the basic amount for current  
 72 operation.—The basic amount for current operation to be included  
 73 for funding the school readiness program for each county shall  
 74 be calculated as follows:

- 75 a. The cost factor for each care level multiplied by 22

76 percent. The product derived from this calculation shall result  
 77 in the unweighted amount by care level.

78 b. The weighted amount by care level shall be derived by  
 79 multiplying the Florida Price Level Index differential for each  
 80 county by the amount calculated pursuant to sub-subparagraph a.

81 c. The average weighted amount shall be derived by adding  
 82 the amounts calculated pursuant to sub-subparagraph b. for care  
 83 levels infant through 5 years old and dividing the resulting sum  
 84 by 5.

85 d. Each early learning coalition's allocation shall be  
 86 derived by multiplying the average weighted amount for each  
 87 county within the coalition by the percentage of the eligible  
 88 school readiness program population established in the General  
 89 Appropriations Act.

90 (b) Gold seal quality care allocation.—There is created  
 91 the gold seal quality care allocation. The allocation amount  
 92 shall be determined annually by the Legislature and shall be the  
 93 amount prescribed in the General Appropriations Act. Each early  
 94 learning coalition shall be reimbursed based on actual fiscal  
 95 year expenditures pursuant to s. 1002.945(6). All expenditures  
 96 from the gold seal quality care allocation shall be used by the  
 97 Division of Early Learning to help meet federal targeted  
 98 requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in  
 99 the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

100 (c) Program assessment differential allocation.—There is

101 created the program assessment differential allocation. The  
102 allocation amount shall be determined annually by the  
103 Legislature and shall be the amount prescribed in the General  
104 Appropriations Act. Each early learning coalition shall be  
105 reimbursed for actual fiscal year expenditures pursuant to s.  
106 1002.82(2)(o). All expenditures from the program assessment  
107 differential allocation shall be used by the Division of Early  
108 Learning to help meet federal targeted requirements for  
109 improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's  
110 approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

111 (d) Child assessment differential allocation.—There is  
112 created the child assessment differential allocation. The  
113 allocation amount shall be determined annually by the  
114 Legislature and shall be the amount prescribed in the General  
115 Appropriations Act. Each early learning coalition shall be  
116 reimbursed for actual fiscal year expenditures pursuant to s.  
117 1002.82(2)(o). All expenditures from the child assessment  
118 differential allocation shall be used by the Division of Early  
119 Learning to help meet federal targeted requirements for  
120 improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's  
121 approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

122 (e) Special needs differential allocation.—There is  
123 created the special needs differential allocation. The  
124 allocation amount shall be determined annually by the  
125 Legislature and shall be the amount prescribed in the General

126 Appropriations Act. This allocation shall be used to implement  
 127 the special needs rate provisions outlined in the state's  
 128 approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan. Each early  
 129 learning coalition shall be reimbursed based on actual fiscal  
 130 year expenditures. All expenditures from the special needs  
 131 differential allocation shall be used by the Division of Early  
 132 Learning to help meet federal targeted requirements for  
 133 improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's  
 134 approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan ~~Funding for the~~  
 135 ~~school readiness program shall be allocated among the early~~  
 136 ~~learning coalitions in accordance with this section and the~~  
 137 ~~General Appropriations Act.~~

138 (2) INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.—All instructions to early  
 139 learning coalitions for administering this section shall emanate  
 140 from the department in accordance with the policies of the  
 141 Legislature.

142 ~~(3) All cost savings and all revenues received through a~~  
 143 ~~mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to increase the number~~  
 144 ~~of children served.~~

145 (3)-(4) MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENTS.—All state, federal, and  
 146 local matching funds provided to an early learning coalition for  
 147 purposes of this section shall be used for implementation of its  
 148 approved school readiness program plan, including the hiring of  
 149 staff to effectively operate the school readiness program.

150 (4)-(5) COST REQUIREMENTS.—Costs shall be kept to the

151 minimum necessary for the efficient and effective administration  
 152 of the school readiness program with the highest priority of  
 153 expenditure being direct services for eligible children.

154 However, no more than 5 percent of the funds ~~described in~~  
 155 ~~subsection (4)~~ may be used for administrative costs and no more  
 156 than 22 percent of the funds ~~described in subsection (4)~~ may be  
 157 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative  
 158 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

159 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.  
 160 98.54, which shall include monitoring providers using the  
 161 standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve  
 162 compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant  
 163 to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted  
 164 under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

165 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as  
 166 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53, which shall be limited to the  
 167 following:

168 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and  
 169 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related  
 170 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents  
 171 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified  
 172 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

173 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to  
 174 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist  
 175 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program

176 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care  
177 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate  
178 curricula and related classroom resources that support  
179 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued  
180 professional development and training. Any grants awarded  
181 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and  
182 287.058.

183       3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial  
184 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and  
185 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child  
186 development research and best practices, developmentally  
187 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child  
188 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and  
189 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the  
190 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,  
191 prevention, and reporting.

192       4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the  
193 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding  
194 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal  
195 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for  
196 infant and toddler care.

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

200       6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and



201 | parents, including providing developmental and health screenings  
 202 | to school readiness program children.

203 |       (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office  
 204 | of Management and Budget instructions are those services not  
 205 | defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are  
 206 | required to administer the school readiness program. Such  
 207 | services include, but are not limited to:

- 208 |       1. Assisting families to complete the required application
- 209 |       and eligibility documentation.
- 210 |       2. Determining child and family eligibility.
- 211 |       3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
- 212 |       4. Processing and tracking attendance records.
- 213 |       5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care
- 214 |       information system.

215 |  
 216 | As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does  
 217 | not include payments to school readiness program providers for  
 218 | direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.  
 219 | 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or  
 220 | quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

221 |       (5)-(6) LIMITATION ON THE USE OF PROGRAM FUNDS.—Funds  
 222 | appropriated for the school readiness program may not be  
 223 | expended for the purchase or improvement of land; for the  
 224 | purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building  
 225 | or facility; or for the purchase of buses. However, funds may be

226 expended for minor remodeling and upgrading of child care  
227 facilities which is necessary for the administration of the  
228 program and to ensure that providers meet state and local child  
229 care standards, including applicable health and safety  
230 requirements.

231 Section 2. Section 1002.90, Florida Statutes, is created  
232 to read:

233 1002.90 School readiness cost-of-care information.-  
234 Annually, the principals of the Early Learning Programs  
235 Estimating Conference established in s. 216.136 shall develop  
236 official cost-of-care information based on actual school  
237 readiness direct services program expenditures and information  
238 provided pursuant to s. 1002.92(4). Conference principals shall  
239 agree on the cost of child care by level and care type, the  
240 eligible population data, and the methods of computation. The  
241 Division of Early Learning shall provide the conference  
242 principals with all requested and necessary data to develop such  
243 information. The data may include a matrix by early learning  
244 coalition of any full-time equivalent changes made by the  
245 division as part of its administration of the school readiness  
246 program. The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference shall  
247 provide the official cost-of-care information to the Legislature  
248 at least 90 days before the scheduled annual legislative  
249 session.

250 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 1002.81, Florida

251 Statutes, is amended to read:

252 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of  
 253 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

254 (4) "Direct enhancement services" means services for  
 255 families and children that are in addition to payments for the  
 256 placement of children in the school readiness program. Direct  
 257 enhancement services for families and children may include  
 258 supports for providers, parent training and involvement  
 259 activities, and strategies to meet the needs of unique  
 260 populations and local eligibility priorities. Direct enhancement  
 261 services offered by an early learning coalition shall be  
 262 consistent with the activities prescribed in s. 1002.89(4)(b) ~~s.~~  
 263 ~~1002.89(5)(b)~~.

264 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section  
 265 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

266 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

267 (7) By January 1 of each year, the department shall  
 268 annually publish on its website a report of its activities  
 269 conducted under this section. The report must include a summary  
 270 of the coalitions' annual reports, a statewide summary, and the  
 271 following:

272 (a) An analysis of early learning activities throughout  
 273 the state, including the school readiness program and the  
 274 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

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

276 school readiness program, enumerated by age, eligibility  
277 priority category, and coalition, and the total number of  
278 children served in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
279 Program.

280 2. A summary of expenditures by coalition, by fund source,  
281 including a breakdown by coalition of the percentage of  
282 expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities,  
283 nondirect services, and direct services for children.

284 3. A description of the department's and each coalition's  
285 expenditures by fund source for the quality and enhancement  
286 activities described in s. 1002.89(4)(b) ~~s. 1002.89(5)(b)~~.

287 4. A summary of annual findings and collections related to  
288 provider fraud and parent fraud.

289 5. Data regarding the coalitions' delivery of early  
290 learning programs.

291 6. The total number of children disenrolled statewide and  
292 the reason for disenrollment.

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

294 8. The number of school readiness program providers who  
295 have completed the program assessment required under paragraph  
296 (2)(n); the number of providers who have not met the minimum  
297 program assessment composite score for contracting established  
298 under paragraph (2)(n); and the number of providers that have an  
299 active improvement plan based on the results of the program  
300 assessment under paragraph (2)(n).

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301           9. The total number of provider contracts revoked and the  
302 reasons for revocation.

303           Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.