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16 (1) LICENSING STANDARDS.—The department shall establish
17 licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must
18 meet regardless of the origin or source of the fees used to
19 operate the facility or the type of children served by the
20 facility.

21 (a) The standards shall be designed to address the
22 ~~following areas:~~

23 1. ~~the health, sanitation, safety, and sanitary adequate~~
24 ~~physical conditions surroundings~~ for all children served by in
25 child care facilities.

26 2. The health and nutrition of all children in child care.

27 3. The child development needs of all children in child
28 care.

29 (2) PERSONNEL.—Minimum standards for child care personnel
30 shall include minimum requirements as to:

31 (a) Good moral character based upon screening as defined
32 in s. 402.302(15). This screening shall be conducted as provided
33 in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening
34 provided set forth in that chapter, and include employment
35 history checks, a search of criminal history records, sexual
36 predator and sexual offender registries, and child abuse and
37 neglect registry of any state in which the current or
38 prospective child care personnel resided during the preceding 5
39 years. Once a completed application has been submitted, the
40 department shall complete the screening and provide the results

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41 to the child care facility. If the department is unable to
42 complete the screening within 10 business days after receiving
43 the Florida Department of Law Enforcement results, the
44 department shall issue the current or prospective child care
45 personnel a 45-day-provisional-hire status based on the initial
46 results of the Florida Criminal History Record Check for Florida
47 arrests, while any other required information is being requested
48 and the department is awaiting results. During the 45-day
49 period, the current or prospective child care personnel must be
50 under the direct supervision of a screened and trained staff
51 member when in contact with children.

52 (e) Minimum training requirements for child care
53 personnel.

54 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that
55 all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour
56 introductory course in child care, which shall be made available
57 online and in-person, and which course covers ~~at least~~ the
58 following topic areas:

59 a. State and local rules and regulations which govern
60 child care.

61 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

62 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

63 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
64 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills
65 development.

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66 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using
67 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to
68 determine the child's developmental age level.

69 f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for
70 professional and classroom use and early literacy and language
71 development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as
72 determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care
73 personnel of a child care facility.

74 g. Developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum
75 disorder and Down syndrome, and early identification, use of
76 available state and local resources, classroom integration, and
77 positive behavioral supports for children with developmental
78 disabilities.

79
80 Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall
81 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care
82 personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1
83 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by
84 passage of a competency examination. Successful completion of
85 the 40-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into
86 community college credit in early childhood education, pursuant
87 to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25. Exemption from all or a portion of
88 the required training shall be granted to child care personnel
89 based upon educational credentials or passage of competency
90 examinations. Child care personnel possessing a 2-year degree or

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91 higher that includes 6 college credit hours in early childhood
92 development or child growth and development, or a child
93 development associate credential or an equivalent state-approved
94 child development associate credential, or a child development
95 associate waiver certificate shall be automatically exempted
96 from the training requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and
97 e.

98 ~~2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to~~
99 ~~the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study~~
100 ~~of children.~~

101 2.3. The introductory course shall cover recognition and
102 prevention of shaken baby syndrome; prevention of sudden infant
103 death syndrome; recognition and care of infants and toddlers
104 with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum
105 disorder and Down syndrome; and early childhood brain
106 development within the topic areas identified in this paragraph.

107 ~~3.4.~~ On an annual basis in order to further their child
108 care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child
109 care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child
110 care training shall be required to take an additional 1
111 continuing education unit of approved inservice training, or 10
112 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the
113 department.

114 ~~4.5.~~ Child care personnel shall be required to complete
115 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock

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116 hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department,
117 in early literacy and language development of children from
118 birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is
119 completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or
120 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 3.
121 ~~4.~~

122 ~~5.6.~~ Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified
123 child care professionals to provide training of child care
124 personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the
125 minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community
126 child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be
127 contracted by the department to coordinate such training when
128 possible. Other district educational resources, such as
129 community colleges and career programs, can be designated in
130 such areas where central agencies may not exist or are
131 determined not to have the capability to meet the coordination
132 requirements set forth by the department.

133 ~~6.7.~~ Training requirements ~~do shall~~ not apply to certain
134 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not
135 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance
136 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

137 ~~8.~~ ~~The department shall evaluate or contract for an~~
138 ~~evaluation for the general purpose of determining the status of~~
139 ~~and means to improve staff training requirements and testing~~
140 ~~procedures. The evaluation shall be conducted every 2 years. The~~

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141 ~~evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, determining the~~
142 ~~availability, quality, scope, and sources of current staff~~
143 ~~training; determining the need for specialty training; and~~
144 ~~determining ways to increase inservice training and ways to~~
145 ~~increase the accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of~~
146 ~~current and proposed staff training. The evaluation methodology~~
147 ~~shall include a reliable and valid survey of child care~~
148 ~~personnel.~~

149 7.9. The child care operator shall be required to take
150 basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5
151 years after employment, either as a part of the introductory
152 training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

153 (f) Periodic health examinations. Such requirement shall
154 only apply to child care personnel responsible for driving any
155 vehicle that is owned, operated or regularly used by the child
156 care facility to provide transportation of children in care.

157 (9) ADMISSIONS AND RECORDKEEPING.—

158 (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for
159 preadmission and periodic health examinations, requirements for
160 immunizations, and requirements for maintaining emergency
161 information and health records on all children.

162 ~~(b) During the months of August and September of each~~
163 ~~year, each child care facility shall provide parents of children~~
164 ~~enrolled in the facility detailed information regarding the~~
165 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~

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166 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~
167 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~
168 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~
169 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

170 ~~(c) During the months of April and September of each year,~~
171 ~~at a minimum, each facility shall provide parents of children~~
172 ~~enrolled in the facility information regarding the potential for~~
173 ~~a distracted adult to fail to drop off a child at the facility~~
174 ~~and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival~~
175 ~~at the adult's destination. The child care facility shall also~~
176 ~~give parents information about resources with suggestions to~~
177 ~~avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or~~
178 ~~brochure with this information that shall be posted to the~~
179 ~~department's website, which child care facilities may choose to~~
180 ~~reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of~~
181 ~~this paragraph.~~

182 ~~(b)(d)~~ Because of the nature and duration of drop-in child
183 care, requirements for preadmission and periodic health
184 examinations and requirements for medically signed records of
185 immunization required for child care facilities shall not apply.
186 A parent of a child in drop-in child care shall, however, be
187 required to attest to the child's health condition and the type
188 and current status of the child's immunizations.

189 ~~(c)(e)~~ Any child shall be exempt from medical or physical
190 examination or medical or surgical treatment upon written

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191 request of the parent or guardian of such child who objects to
192 the examination and treatment. However, the laws, rules, and
193 regulations relating to contagious or communicable diseases and
194 sanitary matters shall not be violated because of any exemption
195 from or variation of the health and immunization minimum
196 standards.

197 (13) PLAN OF ACTIVITIES.—Minimum standards shall ensure
198 that each child care facility has and implements a written plan
199 for the daily provision of varied activities and active and
200 quiet play opportunities appropriate to the age of the child.
201 ~~The written plan must include a program, to be implemented~~
202 ~~periodically for children of an appropriate age, which will~~
203 ~~assist the children in preventing and avoiding physical and~~
204 ~~mental abuse.~~

205 ~~(17) SPECIALIZED CHILD CARE FACILITIES FOR THE CARE OF~~
206 ~~MILDLY ILL CHILDREN.—Minimum standards shall be developed by the~~
207 ~~department, in conjunction with the Department of Health, for~~
208 ~~specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill~~
209 ~~children. The minimum standards shall address the following~~
210 ~~areas: personnel requirements; staff-to-child ratios; staff~~
211 ~~training and credentials; health and safety; physical facility~~
212 ~~requirements, including square footage; client eligibility,~~
213 ~~including a definition of "mildly ill children"; sanitation and~~
214 ~~safety; admission and recordkeeping; dispensing of medication;~~
215 ~~and a schedule of activities.~~

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216 (18) By December 31, 2024, and every 5 years thereafter,
217 the department shall submit a report to the Governor, the
218 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
219 Representatives. The report must include, at a minimum,
220 information concerning:

221 (a) Training requirements and coursework offered by the
222 department to child care personnel. The report must include the
223 results of a reliable and valid survey of child care personnel
224 regarding such training and coursework. Such results must be
225 used to make recommendations regarding:

226 1. The availability, quality, relevance, scope, cost
227 effectiveness, and sources of current and prospective training.

228 2. The need for specialty training.

229 3. Approaches to increase inservice training.

230 (b) Licensing and regulation of child care facilities. The
231 report shall identify and make recommendations regarding:

232 1. The elimination of unnecessary, vague, or redundant
233 rules.

234 2. Streamlined standards used to classify violations.

235 3. The application of rules in a manner to eliminate
236 subjectivity by licensing staff.

237 4. Methods to simplify inspections.

238 5. The elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
239 inspections.

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240 (c) The department shall adopt rules and revise policies
241 based on the recommendations in the report.

242 (d) The department may contract for the production of the
243 report required under this subsection.

244 Section 2. Section 402.3115, Florida Statutes, is amended
245 to read:

246 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
247 inspections; abbreviated inspections.-

248 (1) The Department of Children and Families and local
249 governmental agencies that license child care facilities shall
250 develop and implement a plan to eliminate duplicative and
251 unnecessary inspections of child care facilities, family day
252 care homes, and large family child care homes.

253 (2)(a) ~~In addition,~~ The department and the local
254 governmental agencies shall develop and implement an abbreviated
255 inspection plan for child care facilities that:

256 1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years;

257 2. Have had no Class 1 and no more than two of the same ~~or~~
258 Class 2 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2
259 consecutive years;

260 3. Have received at least two full onsite renewal
261 inspections in the most recent 2 years;

262 4. Do not have any current uncorrected violations; and

263 5. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active
264 child protective services investigations.

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265 (b) The abbreviated inspection must include those elements
266 identified by the department ~~and the local governmental agencies~~
267 as being key indicators of whether the child care facility
268 continues to provide quality care and programming and must be
269 updated every 5 years.

270 (c)1. By August 1 of each year, the department shall post
271 on its website the number of:

272 a. Abbreviated inspections conducted.

273 b. Providers that qualified for an abbreviated inspection.

274 c. Providers who, after an abbreviated inspection, no
275 longer qualify for an abbreviated inspection after receiving
276 violations.

277 Section 3. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended
278 to read:

279 627.70161 Family day care and large family child care
280 insurance.—

281 (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
282 family day care homes and large family child care homes fulfill
283 a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the
284 intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance
285 coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on
286 the basis of the ~~family~~ day care or child care services at the
287 residence. The Legislature also recognizes that the potential
288 liability of residential property insurers is substantially
289 increased by the rendition of child care services on the

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290 premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a public
291 need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise in
292 connection with the operation of the family day care home or
293 large family child care home are excluded from residential
294 property insurance policies unless they are specifically
295 included in such coverage.

296 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

297 (a) "Child care" has the same meaning as in s. 402.302
298 ~~means the care, protection, and supervision of a child, for a~~
299 ~~period of less than 24 hours a day on a regular basis, which~~
300 ~~supplements parental care, enrichment, and health supervision~~
301 ~~for the child, in accordance with his or her individual needs,~~
302 ~~and for which a payment, fee, or grant is made for care.~~

303 (b) "Family day care home" has the same meaning as in s.
304 402.302 ~~means an occupied residence in which child care is~~
305 ~~regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated~~
306 ~~families and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of~~
307 ~~the children receiving care, whether or not operated for a~~
308 ~~profit.~~

309 (c) "Large family child care home" has the same meaning as
310 in s. 402.302.

311 (3) FAMILY DAY CARE AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE;
312 COVERAGE.—A residential property insurance policy shall not
313 provide coverage for liability for claims arising out of, or in
314 connection with, the operation of a family day care home or

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315 large family child care home, and the insurer shall be under no
316 obligation to defend against lawsuits covering such claims,
317 unless:

318 (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or

319 (b) Covered by a rider or endorsement for business
320 coverage attached to a policy.

321 (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An
322 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for
323 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the
324 policyholder or applicant operates a family day care home or
325 large family child care home. In addition to other lawful
326 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or
327 refuse to renew a policy of a family day care home or large
328 family child care home provider if one or more of the following
329 conditions occur:

330 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more
331 children than authorized for family day care homes or large
332 family child care homes under by s. 402.302;

333 (b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a
334 separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing
335 liability coverage for the family day care home or large family
336 child care home operations;

337 (c) The policyholder or applicant fails to comply with the
338 family day care home or large family child care home licensure

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339 and registration requirements specified in chapter 402 ~~s.~~
340 ~~402.313~~; or

341 (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or
342 omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations
343 establishing safety standards for family day care homes or large
344 family child care home by the named insured or his or her
345 representative which materially increase any of the risks
346 insured.

347 Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (3) of
348 section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

349 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
350 private prekindergarten providers.—

351 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
352 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
353 following requirements:

354 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
355 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
356 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
357 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under
358 s. 402.3025(2), faith-based child care provider exempt from
359 licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is
360 accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a
361 military installation that is certified by the United States
362 Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten provider that
363 has been issued a provisional license under s. 402.309. A

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364 private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the program
365 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

366 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for
367 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one
368 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following
369 requirements:

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

372 a. A child development associate credential issued by the
373 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
374 Recognition; or

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

378
379 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under
380 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures
381 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

382 2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully
383 complete, within 45 days of being approved by the early learning
384 coalition as the lead instructor in a VPK classroom, three
385 emergent literacy training courses that include developmentally
386 appropriate and experiential learning practices for children and
387 a student performance standards training course approved by the
388 department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted

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389 under s. 1002.59. The prekindergarten instructor must complete
390 an emergent literacy training course at least once every 5 years
391 after initially completing the three emergent literacy training
392 courses. The courses in this subparagraph must be recognized as
393 part of the informal early learning and career pathway
394 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). The
395 requirement for completion of the standards training course
396 shall take effect July 1, 2022. The courses must be made
397 available online or in person.

398 Section 5. Subsection (4) of section 1002.61, Florida
399 Statutes, is amended to read:

400 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
401 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

402 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),
403 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must
404 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one
405 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds
406 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)
407 or (b), or an educational credential specified in s.
408 1002.55(3)(c)1. as long as the instructor has completed the
409 early literacy micro-credential program under s. 1003.485. As
410 used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher" means a
411 teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate under s.
412 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the district
413 school board to instruct students in the summer prekindergarten

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414 program. In selecting instructional staff for the summer
415 prekindergarten program, each school district shall give
416 priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in early
417 childhood education and have completed emergent literacy and
418 performance standards courses, as provided for in s.

419 1002.55(3)(c)2.

420 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
421 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

422 1002.67 Performance standards and curricula.—

423 (2)

424 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
425 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
426 must:

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

429 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in
430 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
431 under subsection (1); ~~and~~

432 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated
433 instruction which must ~~that shall~~ be measured by the coordinated
434 screening and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.25(8). A
435 private prekindergarten provider's or public school's curriculum
436 may not consist of using the coordinated screening and progress
437 monitoring program or any other progress monitoring program for
438 direct student instruction.

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439 Section 7. Subsection (3), paragraphs (a) and (c) of
440 subsection (4), paragraph (a) of subsection (5), and paragraph
441 (d) of subsection (6) of section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, are
442 amended to read:

443 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
444 accountability.—

445 (3)(a) For the 2022-2023 ~~2020-2021~~ program year a, ~~the~~
446 ~~department shall calculate a kindergarten readiness rate for~~
447 ~~each~~ private prekindergarten provider and public school
448 participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
449 that does not meet the minimum threshold for contracting in
450 accordance with subsection(5)(a) shall be subject to the
451 probation requirements of subsection(5)(b) ~~based upon learning~~
452 ~~gains and the percentage of students assessed as ready for~~
453 ~~kindergarten. The department shall require that each school~~
454 ~~district administer the statewide kindergarten screening in use~~
455 ~~before the 2021-2022 school year to each kindergarten student in~~
456 ~~the school district within the first 30 school days of the 2021-~~
457 ~~2022 school year. Private schools may administer the statewide~~
458 ~~kindergarten screening to each kindergarten student in a private~~
459 ~~school who was enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten~~
460 ~~Education Program. Learning gains shall be determined using a~~
461 ~~value-added measure based on growth demonstrated by the results~~
462 ~~of the preassessment and postassessment in use before the 2021-~~
463 ~~2022 program year. However, a provider may not be newly placed~~

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464 ~~on probationary status under this paragraph. A provider~~
465 ~~currently on probationary status may only be removed from such~~
466 ~~status if the provider earns the minimum rate, determined~~
467 ~~pursuant to subsection (5). The methodology for calculating a~~
468 ~~provider's readiness rate may not include students who are not~~
469 ~~administered the statewide kindergarten screening.~~

470 ~~(b) For the 2021-2022 program year, kindergarten screening~~
471 ~~results may not be used in the calculation of readiness rates.~~
472 ~~Any private prekindergarten provider or public school~~
473 ~~participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program~~
474 ~~which fails to meet the minimum kindergarten readiness rate for~~
475 ~~the 2021-2022 program year is subject to the probation~~
476 ~~requirements of subsection (5).~~

477 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 ~~2022-2023~~ program
478 year, within existing funds the department shall consult with
479 the University of South Florida's Rightpath Research and
480 Innovation Center to adopt a methodology for calculating each
481 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's
482 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the
483 following:

484 1. Program assessment ~~composite~~ scores under subsection
485 (2), which may be calculated differently, based on the
486 methodology adopted by the department, than the program
487 assessment composite score required for contracting in section
488 (5) (a), and which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

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

492 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes
493 described in subsection (1).

494 (c) The program assessment composite score in subsection
495 (5) and performance metric must be calculated for each private
496 prekindergarten or public school site.

497 (5)(a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 program year, if a
498 public school's or private prekindergarten provider's program
499 assessment composite score for its prekindergarten classrooms
500 does not maintain ~~fails to meet~~ the minimum program assessment
501 composite score for contracting adopted in rule by the
502 department, the private prekindergarten provider or public
503 school must notify the parents of each child enrolled in its
504 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program based on rules
505 adopted by the department and may not participate in the
506 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the
507 following program year based on rules adopted by the department
508 ~~consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school~~
509 ~~or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite~~
510 ~~score for contracting. A public school or private~~
511 ~~prekindergarten provider may request one program assessment per~~
512 ~~program year in order to requalify for participation in the~~
513 ~~Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, provided that the~~

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514 public school or private prekindergarten provider is not
515 excluded from participation under ss. 1002.55(6),
516 1002.61(10)(b), 1002.63(9)(b), or paragraph (5)(b) of this
517 section. If a public school or private prekindergarten provider
518 would like an additional program assessment completed within the
519 same program year in order to maintain eligibility for the
520 following program year, the public school or private
521 prekindergarten provider may request an additional program
522 assessment and shall be responsible for the cost of the
523 additional program assessment.

524 (6)

525 (d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any
526 private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any
527 class I violations or two or more of the same class II
528 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and
529 Families, within the 2 years preceding the provider's or
530 school's request for the exemption.

531 Section 8. Subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida
532 Statutes, is amended to read:

533 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

534 (7) The department shall require that administrative
535 expenditures be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and
536 effective administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
537 Education Program. Administrative policies and procedures shall
538 be revised, to the maximum extent practicable, to incorporate

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539 the use of automation and electronic submission of forms,
540 including those required for child eligibility and enrollment,
541 provider and class registration, and monthly certification of
542 attendance for payment. A school district may use its automated
543 daily attendance reporting system for the purpose of
544 transmitting attendance records to the early learning coalition
545 in a mutually agreed-upon format. In addition, actions shall be
546 taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate the duplication of reports,
547 and eliminate other duplicative activities. Each early learning
548 coalition may retain and expend no more than ~~54.0~~ percent of the
549 funds paid by the coalition to private prekindergarten providers
550 and public schools under paragraph (5)(b). Funds retained by an
551 early learning coalition under this subsection may be used only
552 for administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
553 Program and may not be used for the school readiness program or
554 other programs.

555 Section 9. Paragraphs (j), (l), and (q) of subsection (2)
556 of section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

557 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

558 (2) The department shall:

559 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the standards
560 and benchmarks developed and adopted by the department that
561 address the age-appropriate progress of children in the
562 development of school readiness skills. The standards for
563 children from birth to kindergarten entry in the school

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564 readiness program must be aligned with the performance standards
565 adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
566 Program and must address the following domains:

- 567 1. Approaches to learning.
- 568 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 569 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 570 4. Physical development.
- 571 5. Executive-functioning Self-regulation.

572 (l) Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the
573 performance standards for the school readiness program and
574 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's
575 curriculum that meets the performance standards. Within existing
576 funds, the department may also commission a voluntary open-
577 source school readiness curriculum that meets the performance
578 standards pursuant to paragraph (j) that must:

- 579 1. Be available on the Internet at no cost.
- 580 2. Contain resources that support the use of the
581 curriculum.
- 582 3. Contain resources for parent engagement.
- 583 4. Consist of aligned and effective professional
584 development resources necessary to implement the curriculum with
585 fidelity.

586 (q) Within existing funds establish a single statewide
587 information system that shall be used to manage all early
588 learning programs, including the implementation of data sharing

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589 connections to the child care licensing and child care training
590 platforms within the Child Care Services Program Office of the
591 Department of Children and Families, and that each coalition
592 must use for the purposes of managing the single point of entry,
593 tracking children's progress, coordinating services among
594 stakeholders, determining eligibility of children, tracking
595 child attendance, and streamlining administrative processes for
596 providers and early learning coalitions. By July 1, ~~2024~~2019,
597 the system, subject to ss. 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

598 1. Allow a parent to find early learning programs online,
599 including the performance profile under s. 1002.92(3)(a) which
600 must be integrated into the online portal under s. 1001.10(10).

601 ~~2.1.~~ Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or
602 her child as the child moves among programs within the state.

603 ~~3.2.~~ Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local
604 level to measure child growth over time, program impact, and
605 quality improvement and investment decisions.

606 Section 10. Subsections (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10),
607 (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), and (16) of section 1002.83,
608 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (6), (7), (8),
609 (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), and (17),
610 respectively, and subsection (5) is added to that section, to
611 read:

612 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

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613 (5) The coalition may also choose to appoint an additional
614 public sector board member to include a representative of local
615 law enforcement.

616 Section 11. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
617 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

618 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

619 (4) COST REQUIREMENTS.—Costs shall be kept to the minimum
620 necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the
621 school readiness program with the highest priority of
622 expenditure being direct services for eligible children.
623 However, no more than 5 percent of the funds allocated in
624 paragraph (1)(a) may be used for administrative costs and no
625 more than 22 percent of the funds allocated in paragraph (1)(a)
626 may be used in any fiscal year for any combination of
627 administrative costs, quality activities, and nondirect services
628 as follows:

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

632 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and
633 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related
634 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents
635 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified
636 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

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637 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to
638 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist
639 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program
640 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care
641 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate
642 curricula and related classroom resources that support parent
643 engagement curricula, ~~providing~~ literacy supports, and providing
644 continued professional development through the Teacher Education
645 and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program under s.
646 1002.95 and training aligned to the early learning professional
647 development standards and career pathways under s. 1002.995, and
648 reimbursement for background screenings and training. Any grants
649 awarded pursuant to this subparagraph must ~~shall~~ comply with ss.
650 215.971 and 287.058.

651 3. Providing training aligned with the early learning
652 professional development standards and career pathways under s.
653 1002.995, technical assistance, and financial support to school
654 readiness program providers, staff, and parents on standards,
655 child screenings, child assessments, the child development
656 ~~research and best practices~~, developmentally appropriate
657 curriculum under s. 1002.82 (2)(1), executive functioning
658 curricula, character development, teacher-child interactions,
659 age-appropriate discipline practices, health and safety,
660 nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the

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661 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,
662 prevention, and reporting.

663 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
664 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
665 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
666 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for
667 infant and toddler care.

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

671 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
672 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
673 to school readiness program children.

674 Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
675 1002.945, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

676 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

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

681 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or
682 more of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the
683 Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years
684 preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality
685 Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II

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686 violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for
687 termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care
688 provider until the provider has no class II violations that are
689 the same for a period of 1 year.

690 Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
691 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

692 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
693 support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring;
694 reporting requirements.—

695 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

696 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student
697 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills
698 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and
699 based upon the results of the administration of the final
700 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under subsection
701 (8) shall be ~~referred to the local school district and may be~~
702 eligible to receive early literacy skill instructional support
703 through a "Summer Bridge" program the summer ~~intensive reading~~
704 ~~interventions~~ before participating in kindergarten. The early
705 literacy skill instructional support may be delivered by a
706 private prekindergarten provider or public school that meets
707 requirements adopted by the department. The program shall
708 consist of no more than 4 hours of instruction per day for a
709 total of 140 hours. Such early literacy skill instructional
710 support may ~~intensive reading interventions shall~~ be paid for

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711 using any unused funds from the general appropriations act
712 allocated for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
713 from the prior fiscal year in accordance with the rate set for a
714 student in a summer prekindergarten program or from the
715 district's evidence-based reading instruction allocation in
716 accordance with s. 1011.62(8).

717 Section 14. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1002.57,
718 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

719 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

720 (3) The prekindergarten director credential must meet or
721 exceed the requirements of the Department of Children and
722 Families for the child care facility director credential under
723 s. 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~, and successful completion of
724 the prekindergarten director credential satisfies these
725 requirements for the child care facility director credential.

726 (4) The department shall, to the maximum extent
727 practicable, award credit to a person who successfully completes
728 the child care facility director credential under s.
729 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~ for those requirements of the
730 prekindergarten director credential which are duplicative of
731 requirements for the child care facility director credential.

732 Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 1002.59, Florida
733 Statutes, is amended to read:

734 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards
735 training courses.—

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736 (1) The department, in collaboration with the Just Read,
737 Florida! Office, shall adopt minimum standards for courses in
738 emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors. Each course
739 must comprise 5 clock hours and provide instruction in
740 strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate
741 progress of prekindergarten students in developing emergent
742 literacy skills, including oral communication, knowledge of
743 print and letters, phonological and phonemic awareness, and
744 vocabulary and comprehension development, consistent with the
745 evidence-based content and strategies identified pursuant to s.
746 1001.215(8). The course standards must be reviewed as part of
747 any review of subject coverage or endorsement requirements in
748 the elementary, reading, and exceptional student educational
749 areas conducted pursuant to s. 1012.586. Each course must also
750 provide resources containing strategies that allow students with
751 disabilities and other special needs to derive maximum benefit
752 from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful
753 completion of an emergent literacy training course approved
754 under this section satisfies requirements for approved training
755 in early literacy and language development under ss.
756 402.305(2)(e)4., 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5) ss.
757 ~~402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5).~~

758 Section 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to child care and early learning providers; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; revising licensing standards for all licensed child care facilities and minimum standards and training requirements for child care personnel; requiring the Department of Children and Families to conduct specified screening of child care personnel and issue provisional approval of such personnel under certain conditions; revising requirements for a certain introductory course in child care; deleting a requirement that the department evaluate certain training requirements and testing procedures; revising requirements for minimum standards for periodic health screenings; deleting requirements for minimum standards for parental outreach and education regarding specified issues, a specified plan include a program to assist children in preventing and avoiding physical and mental abuse, and specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill children; requiring the department to submit a report to specified parties on a periodic schedule beginning on a specified date; providing requirements for such report; requiring the department to adopt rules and revise policy based on such report; authorizing the department to contract for the production of such report; amending s. 402.3115, F.S.; requiring the department and certain local

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 1021 (2023)

Amendment No.1

786 governmental agencies to develop and implement a plan to eliminate
787 duplicative and unnecessary inspections of home providers;
788 revising requirements for an abbreviated inspection plan for
789 certain child care facilities; requiring the department to post
790 certain information on its website by a specified date annually;
791 amending s. 627.70161, F.S.; revising definitions; providing that
792 specified insurance provisions apply to large family child care
793 homes; amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; revising requirements for public
794 school and private prekindergarten providers; providing that
795 certain courses must be completed in a specified time frame;
796 amending 1002.61, F.S.; revising education and training
797 requirements for certain instructors; amending s. 1002.67, F.S.;
798 revising requirements for a specified curriculum; amending s.
799 1002.68, F.S.; requiring certain providers that did not meet the
800 minimum threshold for contracting to be subject to probation;
801 deleting obsolete language; requiring the department to consult
802 with a specified entity within existing funds; revising factors
803 used to adopt a specified methodology; requiring providers to
804 notify parents if a certain score is not maintained beginning a
805 specified program year; revising factors that prohibit providers
806 from being granted a good cause exemption; amending s. 1002.82,
807 F.S.; authorizing the department to commission a specified
808 curriculum; specifying that such commission must use existing
809 funds; providing requirements for such curriculum; revising
810 requirements for the statewide information system; amending s.

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 1021 (2023)

Amendment No.1

811 1002.83, F.S.; authorizing early learning coalitions to appoint an
812 additional board member to represent local law enforcement;
813 amending s. 1002.89, F.S.; providing for specified financial
814 support to child care providers and staff to be included in the
815 school readiness program costs; amending s. 1002.945, F.S.;
816 revising requirements for a child care provider to obtain and
817 maintain a designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider;
818 amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; requiring, rather than authorizing,
819 certain students to be eligible to receive certain reading
820 interventions before kindergarten without first being referred to
821 the local school district; authorizing such interventions may be
822 provided by specified providers; providing maximum daily and total
823 instruction hours; authorizing such program to be paid from
824 specified funds; amending ss. 1002.57 and 1002.59, F.S.;
825 conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

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