

26 | child's eligible siblings, beginning with the school year in
27 | which the sibling is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a
28 | public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. until the beginning of
29 | the school year in which the sibling is eligible to begin 6th
30 | grade, provided that the first priority for funding an eligible
31 | sibling is local revenues available to the coalition for funding
32 | direct services.

33 | 2. A child of a parent who transitions from the work
34 | program into employment as described in s. 445.032 from birth to
35 | the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible
36 | for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s.
37 | 1003.21(1)(a)2.

38 | 3. An at-risk child who is at least 9 years of age but
39 | younger than 13 years of age. An at-risk child whose sibling is
40 | enrolled in the school readiness program within an eligibility
41 | priority category listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) and
42 | subparagraph 1. shall be given priority over other children who
43 | are eligible under this paragraph.

44 | 4. A child who is younger than 13 years of age from a
45 | working family that is economically disadvantaged.

46 | 5. A child of a parent who transitions from the work
47 | program into employment as described in s. 445.032 who is
48 | younger than 13 years of age.

49 | 6.a. A child who has special needs ~~and~~ has been
50 | determined eligible as a student who requires additional

51 accommodations beyond those required by the Americans with
52 Disabilities Act. The child's special needs and associated
53 accommodations must be validated by a licensed health care
54 professional, licensed mental health professional, or
55 educational psychologist. Such person may not be the child's
56 parent or a person employed by a child care provider. The
57 following documentation must be used to determine the child's
58 eligibility for such accommodations:

59 I. ~~with a disability,~~ has A current individual education
60 plan with a Florida school district; ~~and is not younger than 3~~
61 years of age.

62 II. A current individualized family support plan;

63 III. A diagnosed special need; or

64 IV. A determination of required accommodations.

65 b. The child care provider of a child who meets the
66 requirements of this subparagraph may be eligible for additional
67 funding through the special needs differential allocation to
68 implement the special needs rate as determined in s.

69 1002.89(1)(d) ~~needs child eligible under this paragraph remains~~
70 eligible until the child is eligible for admission to
71 kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.

72 7. A child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility
73 criteria in paragraphs (a) and (b) and subparagraphs 1. and 2.
74 but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start
75 Program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

76 Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
 77 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

78 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

79 (1) DETERMINATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITION SCHOOL
 80 READINESS PROGRAM FUNDING.—Funding for the school readiness
 81 program shall be used by the early learning coalitions in
 82 accordance with this part and the General Appropriations Act.

83 (d) Special needs differential allocation.—There is
 84 created the special needs differential allocation to assist
 85 eligible school readiness program providers to implement the
 86 special needs rate provisions defined in the state's approved
 87 Child Care and Development Fund Plan. Subject to legislative
 88 appropriation, each early learning coalition shall be reimbursed
 89 based on actual expenditures. All expenditures from the special
 90 needs differential allocation shall be used by the department to
 91 help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to
 92 the extent allowable in the state's approved plan. A school
 93 readiness program provider is eligible for funding through the
 94 allocation to implement the special needs differential rate upon
 95 meeting all of the following requirements by July 1, 2025:

96 1. The provider has met or exceeded the minimum program
 97 assessment composite score required for contracting as
 98 determined by the department, as applicable.

99 2. The provider has completed 10 hours of training in
 100 inclusive early childhood or inclusive school-age education

HB 847

2024

101 | practices within the preceding 2-year period with the provider
102 | completing an additional 10 hours of such training each
103 | subsequent 5-year period as specified by the department.

104 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.