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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to early learning; amending s. 39.0121,
3 F.S.; deleting an obsolete reference to the repealed
4 subsidized child care program; amending s. 39.202, F.S.;
5 replacing an obsolete reference to a repealed program with
6 an updated reference to the school readiness program;
7 authorizing county agencies responsible for licensure or
8 approval of child care providers to be granted access to
9 certain confidential reports and records in cases of child
10 abuse or neglect; amending s. 39.5085, F.S.; deleting an
11 obsolete reference to a repealed program; amending s.
12 383.14, F.S.; replacing obsolete references to the former
13 State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs
14 with updated references to the Agency for Workforce
15 Innovation; transferring, renumbering, and amending s.
16 402.25, F.S.; updating an obsolete reference to a repealed
17 program; deleting obsolete references relating to the
18 repealed prekindergarten early intervention program and
19 Florida First Start Program; amending s. 402.26, F.S.;
20 revising legislative intent; updating an obsolete
21 reference to a repealed program; amending s. 402.281,
22 F.S.; updating an obsolete reference to a former council;
23 requiring that the Department of Children and Family
24 Services consult with the Agency for Workforce Innovation
25 regarding the approval of accrediting associations for the
26 Gold Seal Quality Care program; transferring and
27 renumbering s. 402.3016, F.S., relating to Early Head
28 Start collaboration grants; transferring, renumbering, and

29 | amending s. 402.3018, F.S.; transferring administration of
30 | the statewide toll-free Warm-Line from the department to
31 | the agency; conforming provisions; transferring,
32 | renumbering, and amending s. 402.3051, F.S.; revising
33 | procedures for child care market rate reimbursement and
34 | child care grants; transferring authority to establish the
35 | procedures from the department to the agency; directing
36 | the agency to adopt a prevailing market rate schedule for
37 | child care services; revising definitions; prohibiting the
38 | schedule from interfering with parental choice;
39 | authorizing the agency to enter into contracts and adopt
40 | rules; amending s. 402.313, F.S.; deleting obsolete
41 | provisions authorizing the department to license family
42 | day care homes participating in a repealed program;
43 | repealing ss. 402.3135 and 402.3145, F.S., relating to the
44 | subsidized child care program case management program and
45 | the subsidized child care transportation program; amending
46 | s. 402.315, F.S.; revising provisions relating to fees
47 | collected for child care facilities; amending s. 402.45,
48 | F.S.; updating an obsolete reference relating to a former
49 | council; directing the Department of Health to consult
50 | with the agency regarding certain training provided for
51 | contractors of the community resource mother or father
52 | program; amending s. 409.1671, F.S.; clarifying that a
53 | licensed foster home may be dually licensed as a child
54 | care facility and receive certain payments for the same
55 | child; deleting an obsolete reference to a repealed
56 | program; amending s. 411.01, F.S.; revising provisions

57 relating to the School Readiness Act; revising legislative
58 intent; revising the duties and responsibilities of the
59 Agency for Workforce Innovation; deleting obsolete
60 provisions relating to procedures for merging early
61 learning coalitions; revising requirements for parental
62 choice; directing the agency to establish a formula for
63 allocating school readiness funds to each county;
64 providing for legislative notice and review of the
65 formula; amending s. 411.0101, F.S.; revising requirements
66 for services provided by the statewide child care resource
67 and referral network; updating obsolete references to
68 repealed programs; amending s. 411.0102, F.S.; revising
69 provisions relating to the Child Care Executive
70 Partnership Act; updating obsolete references to repealed
71 programs; deleting provisions relating to the duties of
72 each early coalition board; amending s. 411.203, F.S.;
73 deleting an obsolete reference to a repealed program;
74 conforming provisions; amending s. 411.221, F.S.; updating
75 an obsolete reference to a former council; amending ss.
76 445.024, 445.030, 490.014, and 491.014, F.S.; deleting
77 obsolete references to repealed programs; conforming
78 provisions to the repeal of the subsidized child care case
79 management program; amending ss. 1002.53, 1002.55,
80 1002.67, and 1002.71, F.S.; revising provisions relating
81 to the eligibility requirements for private
82 prekindergarten providers; conforming provisions to
83 changes made by the act; amending s. 1009.64, F.S.;
84 deleting an obsolete reference to a repealed program;

85 providing an effective date.

86

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

88

89 Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 39.0121, Florida
 90 Statutes, is amended to read:

91 39.0121 Specific rulemaking authority.—Pursuant to the
 92 requirements of s. 120.536, the department is specifically
 93 authorized to adopt, amend, and repeal administrative rules
 94 which implement or interpret law or policy, or describe the
 95 procedure and practice requirements necessary to implement this
 96 chapter, including, but not limited to, the following:

97 (7) Federal funding requirements and procedures; foster
 98 care and adoption subsidies; and subsidized independent living~~r~~
 99 ~~and subsidized child care.~~

100 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 101 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
 103 child abuse or neglect.—

104 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
 105 records, excluding the name of the reporter which shall be
 106 released only as provided in subsection (5), shall be granted
 107 only to the following persons, officials, and agencies:

108 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of
 109 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons
 110 with Disabilities, or county agencies responsible for carrying
 111 out:

112 1. Child or adult protective investigations;

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- 113 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 114 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 115 4. Healthy Start services;
- 116 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
- 117 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapter 393, or
- 118 family day care homes or informal child care providers who
- 119 receive school readiness ~~subsidized child care~~ funding, or other
- 120 homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children; or
- 121 6. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided
- 122 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
- 123 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

124

125 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice

126 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant

127 to chapters 984 and 985.

128 Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (2) of section

129 39.5085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

130 39.5085 Relative Caregiver Program.—

131 (2)

132 (f) Within available funding, the Relative Caregiver

133 Program shall provide relative caregivers with family support

134 and preservation services, flexible funds in accordance with s.

135 409.165, ~~subsidized child care~~, and other available services in

136 order to support the child's safety, growth, and healthy

137 development. Children living with relative caregivers who are

138 receiving assistance under this section shall be eligible for

139 Medicaid coverage.

140 Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection

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141 (2) of section 383.14, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

142 383.14 Screening for metabolic disorders, other hereditary
143 and congenital disorders, and environmental risk factors.—

144 (1) SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—To help ensure access to the
145 maternal and child health care system, the Department of Health
146 shall promote the screening of all newborns born in Florida for
147 metabolic, hereditary, and congenital disorders known to result
148 in significant impairment of health or intellect, as screening
149 programs accepted by current medical practice become available
150 and practical in the judgment of the department. The department
151 shall also promote the identification and screening of all
152 newborns in this state and their families for environmental risk
153 factors such as low income, poor education, maternal and family
154 stress, emotional instability, substance abuse, and other high-
155 risk conditions associated with increased risk of infant
156 mortality and morbidity to provide early intervention,
157 remediation, and prevention services, including, but not limited
158 to, parent support and training programs, home visitation, and
159 case management. Identification, perinatal screening, and
160 intervention efforts shall begin prior to and immediately
161 following the birth of the child by the attending health care
162 provider. Such efforts shall be conducted in hospitals,
163 perinatal centers, county health departments, school health
164 programs that provide prenatal care, and birthing centers, and
165 reported to the Office of Vital Statistics.

166 (b) Postnatal screening.—A risk factor analysis using the
167 department's designated risk assessment instrument shall also be
168 conducted as part of the medical screening process upon the

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169 birth of a child and submitted to the department's Office of
170 Vital Statistics for recording and other purposes provided for
171 in this chapter. The department's screening process for risk
172 assessment shall include a scoring mechanism and procedures that
173 establish thresholds for notification, further assessment,
174 referral, and eligibility for services by professionals or
175 paraprofessionals consistent with the level of risk. Procedures
176 for developing and using the screening instrument, notification,
177 referral, and care coordination services, reporting
178 requirements, management information, and maintenance of a
179 computer-driven registry in the Office of Vital Statistics which
180 ensures privacy safeguards must be consistent with the
181 provisions and plans established under chapter 411, Pub. L. No.
182 99-457, and this chapter. Procedures established for reporting
183 information and maintaining a confidential registry must include
184 a mechanism for a centralized information depository at the
185 state and county levels. The department shall coordinate with
186 existing risk assessment systems and information registries. The
187 department must ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that the
188 screening information registry is integrated with the
189 department's automated data systems, including the Florida On-
190 line Recipient Integrated Data Access (FLORIDA) system. Tests
191 and screenings must be performed by the State Public Health
192 Laboratory, in coordination with Children's Medical Services, at
193 such times and in such manner as is prescribed by the department
194 after consultation with the Genetics and Infant Screening
195 Advisory Council and the Agency for Workforce Innovation State
196 ~~Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs.~~

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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197 (2) RULES.—After consultation with the Genetics and
198 Newborn Screening Advisory Council, the department shall adopt
199 and enforce rules requiring that every newborn in this state
200 shall, prior to becoming 1 week of age, be subjected to a test
201 for phenylketonuria and, at the appropriate age, be tested for
202 such other metabolic diseases and hereditary or congenital
203 disorders as the department may deem necessary from time to
204 time. After consultation with the Agency for Workforce
205 Innovation State Coordinating Council for School Readiness
206 Programs, the department shall also adopt and enforce rules
207 requiring every newborn in this state to be screened for
208 environmental risk factors that place children and their
209 families at risk for increased morbidity, mortality, and other
210 negative outcomes. The department shall adopt such additional
211 rules as are found necessary for the administration of this
212 section and s. 383.145, including rules providing definitions of
213 terms, rules relating to the methods used and time or times for
214 testing as accepted medical practice indicates, rules relating
215 to charging and collecting fees for the administration of the
216 newborn screening program authorized by this section, rules for
217 processing requests and releasing test and screening results,
218 and rules requiring mandatory reporting of the results of tests
219 and screenings for these conditions to the department.

220 Section 5. Section 402.25, Florida Statutes, is
221 transferred, renumbered as section 411.0106, Florida Statutes,
222 and amended to read:

223 411.0106 ~~402.25~~ Infants and toddlers in state-funded
224 education and care programs; brain development activities.—Each

225 state-funded education and care program for children from birth
 226 to 5 years of age must provide activities to foster brain
 227 development in infants and toddlers. A program must provide an
 228 environment that helps children attain the performance standards
 229 adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation under s.
 230 411.01(4)(d)8. and must be rich in language and music and filled
 231 with objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to
 232 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses in
 233 the children and must include classical music and at least 30
 234 minutes of reading to the children each day. A program may be
 235 offered through an existing early childhood program such as
 236 Healthy Start, the Title I program, the school readiness program
 237 ~~contracted or directly operated subsidized child care, the~~
 238 ~~prekindergarten early intervention program, Florida First Start,~~
 239 the Head Start program, or a private child care program. A
 240 program must provide training for the infants' and toddlers'
 241 parents including direct dialogue and interaction between
 242 teachers and parents demonstrating the urgency of brain
 243 development in the first year of a child's life. Family day care
 244 centers are encouraged, but not required, to comply with this
 245 section.

246 Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 402.26, Florida
 247 Statutes, is amended to read:

248 402.26 Child care; legislative intent.—

249 (5) It is the further intent of the Legislature to provide
 250 and make accessible child care opportunities for children at
 251 risk, economically disadvantaged children, and other children
 252 traditionally disenfranchised from society. In achieving this

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253 | intent, the Legislature shall develop early learning programs a
 254 | ~~subsidized child care system~~, a range of child care options,
 255 | support services, and linkages with other programs to fully meet
 256 | the child care needs of this population.

257 | Section 7. Subsection (2) of section 402.281, Florida
 258 | Statutes, is amended to read:

259 | 402.281 Gold Seal Quality Care program.—

260 | (2) In developing the Gold Seal Quality Care program
 261 | standards, the department shall consult with the Department of
 262 | Education, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Florida Head
 263 | Start Directors Association, the Florida Association of Child
 264 | Care Management, the Florida Family Day Care Association, the
 265 | Florida Children's Forum, ~~the State Coordinating Council for~~
 266 | ~~School Readiness Programs~~, the Early Childhood Association of
 267 | Florida, the National Association for Child Development
 268 | Education, providers receiving exemptions under s. 402.316, and
 269 | parents, for the purpose of approving the accrediting
 270 | associations.

271 | Section 8. Section 402.3016, Florida Statutes, is
 272 | transferred and renumbered as section 411.0104, Florida
 273 | Statutes.

274 | Section 9. Section 402.3018, Florida Statutes, is
 275 | transferred, renumbered as section 411.01015, Florida Statutes,
 276 | and amended to read:

277 | 411.01015 ~~402.3018~~ Consultation to child care centers and
 278 | family day care homes regarding health, developmental,
 279 | disability, and special needs issues.—

280 | (1) Contingent upon specific appropriations, the Agency

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281 for Workforce Innovation shall administer ~~department is directed~~
282 ~~to contract with the statewide resource information and referral~~
283 ~~agency for~~ a statewide toll-free Warm-Line for the purpose of
284 providing assistance and consultation to child care centers and
285 family day care homes regarding health, developmental,
286 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
287 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
288 special needs.

289 (2) The purpose of the Warm-Line is to provide advice to
290 child care personnel concerning strategies, curriculum, and
291 environmental adaptations that allow a child with a disability
292 or special need to derive maximum benefit from ~~the~~ child care
293 services ~~experience~~.

294 (3) The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~department~~ shall
295 annually inform child care centers and family day care homes of
296 the availability of this service through the child care resource
297 and referral network under s. 411.0101, ~~on an annual basis~~.

298 (4) Contingent upon specific appropriations, the Agency
299 for Workforce Innovation ~~department~~ shall expand, or contract
300 for the expansion of, the Warm-Line to maintain at least one
301 Warm-Line site in each early learning coalition service area
302 ~~from one statewide site to one Warm-Line site in each child care~~
303 ~~resource and referral agency region~~.

304 (5) Each regional Warm-Line shall provide assistance and
305 consultation to child care centers and family day care homes
306 regarding health, developmental, disability, and special needs
307 issues of the children they are serving, particularly children
308 with disabilities and other special needs. Regional Warm-Line

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309 staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when requested,
310 to assist child care centers and family day care homes with
311 inquiries relative to the strategies, curriculum, and
312 environmental adaptations the child care centers and family day
313 care homes may need as they serve children with disabilities and
314 other special needs.

315 Section 10. Section 402.3051, Florida Statutes, is
316 transferred, renumbered as section 411.01013, Florida Statutes,
317 and amended to read:

318 (Substantial rewording of section. See
319 s. 402.3051, F.S., for present text.)

320 411.01013 Prevailing market rate schedule.-

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

322 (a) "Market rate" means the price that a child care
323 provider charges for daily, weekly, or monthly child care
324 services.

325 (b) "Prevailing market rate" means the annually determined
326 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency distribution of the
327 market rate in a predetermined geographic market at which child
328 care providers charge a person for child care services.

329 (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish
330 procedures for the adoption of a prevailing market rate
331 schedule. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-
332 county rates:

333 (a) At the prevailing market rate, plus the maximum rate,
334 for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality Care
335 designation under s. 402.281.

336 (b) At the prevailing market rate for child care providers

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337 that do not hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.

338 (3) The prevailing market rate schedule, at a minimum,
339 must:

340 (a) Differentiate rates by the type of child care
341 provider, including, but not limited to, a child care facility
342 licensed under s. 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt
343 from licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care
344 facility exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, a large family
345 child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a family day care
346 home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, or an after-school
347 program that is not defined as child care under rules adopted
348 pursuant to s. 402.3045.

349 (b) Differentiate rates by the type of child care services
350 provided for children with special needs or risk categories,
351 infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and school-age
352 children.

353 (c) Differentiate rates between full-time and part-time
354 child care services.

355 (d) Consider discounted rates for child care services for
356 multiple children in a single family.

357 (4) The prevailing market rate schedule may not interfere
358 with the parental choice of child care providers under s.
359 411.01, regardless of available funding for the school readiness
360 program. The prevailing market rate schedule must be based
361 exclusively on the prices charged for child care services.

362 (5) The Agency for Workforce Innovation may contract with
363 one or more qualified entities to administer this section and
364 provide support and technical assistance for child care

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365 providers.

366 (6) The Agency for Workforce Innovation may adopt rules
 367 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this
 368 section.

369 Section 11. Subsection (1) of section 402.313, Florida
 370 Statutes, is amended to read:

371 402.313 Family day care homes.—

372 (1) Family day care homes shall be licensed under this act
 373 if they are presently being licensed under an existing county
 374 licensing ordinance, ~~if they are participating in the subsidized~~
 375 ~~child care program,~~ or if the board of county commissioners
 376 passes a resolution that family day care homes be licensed. ~~If~~
 377 ~~no county authority exists for the licensing of a family day~~
 378 ~~care home, the department shall have the authority to license~~
 379 ~~family day care homes under contract for the purchase of service~~
 380 ~~system in the subsidized child care program.~~

381 (a) If not subject to license, family day care homes shall
 382 register annually with the department, providing the following
 383 information:

- 384 1. The name and address of the home.
- 385 2. The name of the operator.
- 386 3. The number of children served.
- 387 4. Proof of a written plan to provide at least one other
 388 competent adult to be available to substitute for the operator
 389 in an emergency. This plan shall include the name, address, and
 390 telephone number of the designated substitute.
- 391 5. Proof of screening and background checks.
- 392 6. Proof of successful completion of the 30-hour training

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393 course, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination,
 394 which shall include:

395 a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child
 396 care.

397 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

398 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

399 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
 400 language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and self-
 401 help skills development.

402 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using
 403 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to
 404 determine a child's developmental level.

405 f. Specialized areas, including early literacy and
 406 language development of children from birth to 5 years of age,
 407 as determined by the department, for owner-operators of family
 408 day care homes.

409 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.

410 8. Proof of completion of the required continuing
 411 education units or clock hours.

412 (b) A family day care home ~~not participating in the~~
 413 ~~subsidized child care program~~ may volunteer to be licensed under
 414 ~~the provisions of~~ this act.

415 (c) The department may provide technical assistance to
 416 counties and family day care home providers to enable counties
 417 and family day care providers to achieve compliance with family
 418 day care homes standards.

419 Section 12. Sections 402.3135 and 402.3145, Florida
 420 Statutes, are repealed.

421 Section 13. Subsection (3) of section 402.315, Florida
 422 Statutes, is amended to read:

423 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

424 (3) The department shall collect a fee for any license it
 425 issues for a child care facility, family day care home, or large
 426 family child care home pursuant to ss. 402.305, 402.313, and
 427 402.3131 ~~s. 402.308~~.

428 (a) For a child care facility licensed pursuant to s.
 429 402.305, such fee shall be \$1 per child based on the licensed
 430 capacity of the facility, except that the minimum fee shall be
 431 \$25 per facility center and the maximum fee shall be \$100 per
 432 facility center.

433 (b) For a family day care home registered pursuant to s.
 434 402.313, such fee shall be \$25.

435 (c) For a family day care home licensed pursuant to s.
 436 402.313, such fee shall be \$50.

437 (d) For a large family child care home licensed pursuant
 438 to s. 402.3131, such fee shall be \$60.

439 Section 14. Subsection (6) of section 402.45, Florida
 440 Statutes, is amended to read:

441 402.45 Community resource mother or father program.—

442 (6) Individuals under contract to provide community
 443 resource mother or father services shall participate in
 444 preservice and ongoing training as determined by the Department
 445 of Health in consultation with the Agency for Workforce
 446 Innovation State Coordinating Council for School Readiness
 447 Programs. A community resource mother or father shall not be
 448 assigned a client caseload until all preservice training

449 requirements are completed.

450 Section 15. Paragraph (c) of subsection (5) of section
 451 409.1671, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

452 409.1671 Foster care and related services; outsourcing.—
 453 (5)

454 (c) A foster home ~~dually~~ licensed ~~home~~ under this section
 455 may shall be dually licensed as a child care facility under
 456 chapter 402 and may eligible to receive both an out-of-home care
 457 payment and, to the extent permitted under federal law, school
 458 readiness funding ~~a subsidized child care payment~~ for the same
 459 child ~~pursuant to federal law~~. The department may adopt
 460 ~~administrative~~ rules necessary to administer this paragraph.

461 Section 16. Paragraphs (a), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) of
 462 subsection (2) and subsections (4) through (11) of section
 463 411.01, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

464 411.01 School readiness programs; early learning
 465 coalitions.—

466 (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—

467 (a) The Legislature recognizes that school readiness
 468 programs increase children's chances of achieving future
 469 educational success and becoming productive members of society.
 470 It is the intent of the Legislature that the programs be
 471 developmentally appropriate, research-based, involve the parent
 472 ~~parents~~ as a ~~their~~ child's first teacher, serve as preventive
 473 measures for children at risk of future school failure, enhance
 474 the educational readiness of eligible children, and support
 475 family education. Each school readiness program shall provide
 476 the elements necessary to prepare at-risk children for school,

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477 including health screening and referral and an appropriate
478 educational program.

479 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
480 administrative staff ~~at the state level~~ for school readiness
481 programs be kept to the minimum necessary to administer the
482 duties of the Agency for Workforce Innovation and early learning
483 coalitions, ~~as the school readiness programs are to be~~
484 ~~regionally designed, operated, and managed, with the Agency for~~
485 ~~Workforce Innovation developing school readiness program~~
486 ~~performance standards and outcome measures and approving and~~
487 ~~reviewing early learning coalitions and school readiness plans.~~

488 ~~(e) It is the intent of the Legislature that~~
489 ~~appropriations for combined school readiness programs shall not~~
490 ~~be less than the programs would receive in any fiscal year on an~~
491 ~~uncombined basis.~~

492 (e)-(f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the school
493 readiness program coordinate and operate in conjunction with the
494 district school systems. However, it is also the intent of the
495 Legislature that the school readiness program not be construed
496 as part of the system of free public schools but rather as a
497 separate program for children under the age of kindergarten
498 eligibility, funded separately from the system of free public
499 schools, utilizing a mandatory sliding fee scale, and providing
500 an integrated and seamless system of school readiness services
501 for the state's birth-to-kindergarten population.

502 ~~(g) It is the intent of the Legislature that the federal~~
503 ~~child care income tax credit be preserved for school readiness~~
504 ~~programs.~~

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505 ~~(f)-(h)~~ It is the intent of the Legislature that school
506 readiness services ~~shall~~ be an integrated and seamless program
507 ~~system~~ of services with a developmentally appropriate education
508 component for the state's eligible birth-to-kindergarten
509 population described in subsection (6) and ~~shall~~ not be
510 construed as part of the seamless K-20 education system.

511 (4) AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION.—

512 (a) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer
513 school readiness programs at the state level and shall
514 coordinate with the early learning coalitions in providing
515 school readiness services on a full-day, full-year, full-choice
516 basis to the extent possible in order to enable parents to work
517 and be financially self-sufficient.

518 (b) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall:

519 1. Coordinate the birth-to-kindergarten services for
520 children who are eligible under subsection (6) and the
521 programmatic, administrative, and fiscal standards under this
522 section for all public providers of school readiness programs.

523 ~~2. Continue to provide unified leadership for school~~
524 ~~readiness through early learning coalitions.~~

525 ~~2.3.~~ Focus on improving the educational quality of all
526 program providers participating in publicly funded school
527 readiness programs.

528 (c) The Governor shall designate the Agency for Workforce
529 Innovation as the lead agency for ~~purposes of~~ administration of
530 the federal Child Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. parts 98
531 and 99, and the Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~may be~~
532 ~~designated by the Governor as the lead agency and, if so~~

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533 ~~designated,~~ shall comply with the lead agency responsibilities
534 under federal law.

535 (d) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall:

536 1. Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and
537 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual
538 requirements.

539 2. Provide final approval and every 2 years ~~periodic~~
540 review ~~of~~ early learning coalitions and school readiness plans.

541 3. Establish ~~Provide leadership for the enhancement of~~
542 ~~school readiness in this state by aggressively establishing a~~
543 ~~unified approach to the state's efforts toward enhancement of~~
544 ~~school readiness. In support of this effort, the Agency for~~
545 ~~Workforce Innovation shall adopt~~ may develop and implement
546 specific system support service strategies that address the
547 state's school readiness programs. An early learning coalition
548 shall amend its school readiness plan to conform to the specific
549 system support service strategies adopted by the Agency for
550 Workforce Innovation. System support services shall include, but
551 are not limited to:

552 a. Child care resource and referral services;

553 b. Warm-Line services;

554 c. Eligibility determinations;

555 d. Child performance standards;

556 e. Child screening and assessment;

557 f. Developmentally appropriate curricula;

558 g. Health and safety requirements;

559 h. Statewide data system requirements; and

560 i. Rating and improvement systems.

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561 4. Safeguard the effective use of federal, state, local,
562 and private resources to achieve the highest possible level of
563 school readiness for the children in this state.

564 5. Adopt a rule establishing criteria for the expenditure
565 of funds designated for the purpose of funding activities to
566 improve the quality of child care within the state in accordance
567 with s. 658G of the federal Child Care and Development Block
568 Grant Act.

569 ~~6.5.~~ Provide technical assistance to early learning
570 coalitions in a manner determined by the Agency for Workforce
571 Innovation based upon information obtained by the agency from
572 various sources, including, but not limited to, public input,
573 government reports, private interest group reports, agency
574 monitoring visits, and coalition requests for service.

575 7. In cooperation with the Department of Education and
576 early learning coalitions, coordinate with the Child Care
577 Services Program Office of the Department of Children and Family
578 Services to minimize duplicating interagency activities, health
579 and safety monitoring, and acquiring and composing data
580 pertaining to child care training and credentialing.

581 ~~6. Assess gaps in service.~~

582 ~~7. Provide technical assistance to counties that form a~~
583 ~~multicounty region served by an early learning coalition.~~

584 8. Develop and adopt performance standards and outcome
585 measures for school readiness programs. The performance
586 standards must address the age-appropriate progress of children
587 in the development of the school readiness skills ~~required under~~
588 ~~paragraph (j)~~. The performance standards for children from birth

589 to 5 ~~3~~ years of age in school readiness programs must be
 590 integrated with the performance standards adopted by the
 591 Department of Education for children in the Voluntary
 592 Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1002.67.

593 9. Adopt a standard contract that must be used by the
 594 coalitions when contracting with school readiness providers.

595 (e) The Agency for Workforce Innovation may adopt rules
 596 under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer the provisions of
 597 law conferring duties upon the agency, including, but not
 598 limited to, rules governing the administration of system support
 599 services ~~preparation and implementation of the~~ school readiness
 600 programs ~~system~~, the collection of data, the approval of early
 601 learning coalitions and school readiness plans, the provision of
 602 a method whereby an early learning coalition may serve two or
 603 more counties, the award of incentives to early learning
 604 coalitions, child performance standards, child outcome measures,
 605 ~~and the issuance of waivers, and the implementation of the~~
 606 state's Child Care and Development Fund Plan as approved by the
 607 federal Administration for Children and Families.

608 (f) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall have all
 609 powers necessary to administer this section, including, but not
 610 limited to, the power to receive and accept grants, loans, or
 611 advances of funds from any public or private agency and to
 612 receive and accept from any source contributions of money,
 613 property, labor, or any other thing of value, to be held, used,
 614 and applied for purposes of this section.

615 (g) Except as provided by law, the Agency for Workforce
 616 Innovation may not impose requirements on a child care or early

617 childhood education provider that does not deliver services
 618 under the ~~a~~ school readiness programs ~~program~~ or receive state
 619 or federal funds under this section.

620 (h) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall have a
 621 budget for ~~the~~ school readiness programs ~~system~~, which shall be
 622 financed through an annual appropriation made for purposes of
 623 this section in the General Appropriations Act.

624 (i) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall coordinate
 625 the efforts toward school readiness in this state and provide
 626 independent policy analyses, data analyses, and recommendations
 627 to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the
 628 Legislature.

629 (j) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall require that
 630 ~~each early learning coalition's~~ school readiness programs
 631 ~~program must~~, at a minimum, enhance the age-appropriate progress
 632 of each child in attaining the performance standards adopted
 633 under subparagraph (d)8. and in the development of the following
 634 school readiness skills:

- 635 1. Compliance with rules, limitations, and routines.
- 636 2. Ability to perform tasks.
- 637 3. Interactions with adults.
- 638 4. Interactions with peers.
- 639 5. Ability to cope with challenges.
- 640 6. Self-help skills.
- 641 7. Ability to express the child's needs.
- 642 8. Verbal communication skills.
- 643 9. Problem-solving skills.
- 644 10. Following of verbal directions.

- 645 11. Demonstration of curiosity, persistence, and
- 646 exploratory behavior.
- 647 12. Interest in books and other printed materials.
- 648 13. Paying attention to stories.
- 649 14. Participation in art and music activities.
- 650 15. Ability to identify colors, geometric shapes, letters
- 651 of the alphabet, numbers, and spatial and temporal
- 652 relationships.

653

654 Within 30 days after enrollment ~~The Agency for Workforce~~

655 ~~Innovation shall also require that, before a child is enrolled~~

656 ~~in the an early learning coalition's~~ school readiness program,

657 ~~the~~ early learning coalition must ensure that the program

658 provider obtains ~~information is obtained by the coalition or the~~

659 ~~school readiness provider~~ regarding the child's immunizations,

660 physical development, and other health requirements as

661 necessary, including appropriate vision and hearing screening

662 and examinations as required by s. 402.305(9) and as verified

663 pursuant to s. 402.311.

664 (k) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall conduct

665 studies and planning activities related to the overall

666 improvement and effectiveness of the outcome measures adopted by

667 the agency for school readiness programs and the specific system

668 support service strategies to address the state's school

669 readiness programs adopted by the Agency for Workforce

670 Innovation in accordance with subparagraph (d)3.

671 (l) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall monitor and

672 evaluate the performance of each early learning coalition in

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673 administering the school readiness program, implementing the
674 coalition's school readiness plan, and administering the
675 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. These monitoring
676 and performance evaluations must include, at a minimum, onsite
677 monitoring of each coalition's finances, management, operations,
678 and programs.

679 ~~(m) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall identify~~
680 ~~best practices of early learning coalitions in order to improve~~
681 ~~the outcomes of school readiness programs.~~

682 (m) ~~(n)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall submit an
683 annual report of its activities conducted under this section to
684 the Governor, ~~the executive director of the Florida Healthy Kids~~
685 ~~Corporation,~~ the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
686 House of Representatives, and the minority leaders of both
687 houses of the Legislature. In addition, the Agency for Workforce
688 Innovation's reports and recommendations shall be made available
689 to ~~the State Board of Education,~~ the Florida Early Learning
690 Advisory Council and, other appropriate state agencies and
691 entities, ~~district school boards, central agencies, and county~~
692 ~~health departments.~~ The annual report must provide an analysis
693 of school readiness activities across the state, including the
694 number of children who were served in the programs.

695 (n) ~~(o)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall work with
696 the early learning coalitions to ensure availability of training
697 and support for parental ~~increase parents' training for and~~
698 involvement in ~~their~~ children's early preschool education and to
699 provide family literacy activities and services ~~programs.~~

700 (5) CREATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS.—

701 (a) Early learning coalitions.—

702 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish the
 703 minimum number of children to be served by each early learning
 704 coalition through the coalition's school readiness program. The
 705 Agency for Workforce Innovation may only approve school
 706 readiness plans in accordance with this minimum number. The
 707 minimum number must be uniform for every early learning
 708 coalition and must:

- 709 a. Permit 31 ~~30~~ or fewer coalitions to be established; and
- 710 b. Require each coalition to serve at least 2,000 children
 711 based upon the average number of all children served per month
 712 through the coalition's school readiness program during the
 713 previous 12 months.

714
 715 ~~The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for~~
 716 ~~merging early learning coalitions, including procedures for the~~
 717 ~~consolidation of merging coalitions, and for the early~~
 718 ~~termination of the terms of coalition members which are~~
 719 ~~necessary to accomplish the mergers. Each early learning~~
 720 ~~coalition must comply with the merger procedures and shall be~~
 721 ~~organized in accordance with this subparagraph by April 1, 2005.~~
 722 ~~By June 30, 2005, each coalition must complete the transfer of~~
 723 ~~powers, duties, functions, rules, records, personnel, property,~~
 724 ~~and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and~~
 725 ~~other funds to the successor coalition, if applicable.~~

726 2. If an early learning coalition would serve fewer
 727 children than the minimum number established under subparagraph
 728 1., the coalition must merge with another county to form a

729 multicounty coalition. However, the Agency for Workforce
 730 Innovation may authorize an early learning coalition to serve
 731 fewer children than the minimum number established under
 732 subparagraph 1., if:

733 a. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
 734 Innovation that merging with another county or multicounty
 735 region contiguous to the coalition would cause an extreme
 736 hardship on the coalition;

737 b. The Agency for Workforce Innovation has determined
 738 during the most recent annual review of the coalition's school
 739 readiness plan, or through monitoring and performance
 740 evaluations conducted under paragraph (4)(1), that the coalition
 741 has substantially implemented its plan and substantially met the
 742 performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the
 743 agency; and

744 c. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
 745 Innovation the coalition's ability to effectively and
 746 efficiently implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 747 Program.

748
 749 If an early learning coalition fails or refuses to merge as
 750 required by this subparagraph, the Agency for Workforce
 751 Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract
 752 with a qualified entity to continue school readiness and
 753 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
 754 multicounty region until the agency reestablishes the coalition
 755 and a new ~~is reestablished through resubmission of a school~~
 756 readiness plan is approved ~~and approval~~ by the agency.

757 ~~3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs 1. and~~
758 ~~2., the early learning coalitions in Sarasota, Osceola, and~~
759 ~~Santa Rosa Counties which were in operation on January 1, 2005,~~
760 ~~are established and authorized to continue operation as~~
761 ~~independent coalitions, and shall not be counted within the~~
762 ~~limit of 30 coalitions established in subparagraph 1.~~

763 ~~3.4.~~ Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at
764 least 15 ~~18~~ members but not more than 30 ~~35~~ members. The Agency
765 for Workforce Innovation shall adopt standards establishing
766 within this range the minimum and maximum number of members that
767 may be appointed to an early learning coalition. These standards
768 must include variations for a coalition serving a multicounty
769 region. Each early learning coalition must comply with these
770 standards.

771 ~~4.5.~~ The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
772 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the
773 same qualifications as private sector business members appointed
774 by the coalition under subparagraph ~~6.7.~~

775 ~~5.6.~~ Each early learning coalition must include the
776 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
777 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
778 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
779 seated per member position ~~members:~~

780 a. A Department of Children and Family Services circuit
781 ~~district~~ administrator or his or her designee who is authorized
782 to make decisions on behalf of the department.

783 b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her
784 designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the

785 ~~district, who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

786 c. A regional workforce board executive director or his or
787 her designee.

788 ~~d. A county health department director or his or her~~
789 ~~designee.~~

790 ~~d.e.~~ A children's services council or juvenile welfare
791 board chair or executive director, ~~if applicable, who shall be a~~
792 ~~nonvoting member if the council or board is the fiscal agent of~~
793 ~~the coalition or if the council or board contracts with and~~
794 ~~receives funds from the coalition for any purpose other than~~
795 ~~rent.~~

796 ~~e.f.~~ An agency head of a local licensing agency as defined
797 in s. 402.302, where applicable.

798 ~~f.g.~~ A president of a community college or his or her
799 designee.

800 ~~g.h.~~ One member appointed by a board of county
801 commissioners or the governing board of a municipality.

802 ~~i. A central agency administrator, where applicable, who~~
803 ~~shall be a nonvoting member.~~

804 ~~h.j.~~ A Head Start director, ~~who shall be a nonvoting~~
805 ~~member.~~

806 ~~i.k.~~ A representative of private for-profit child care
807 providers, including private for-profit family day care homes,
808 ~~who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

809 ~~j.l.~~ A representative of faith-based child care providers,
810 ~~who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

811 ~~k.m.~~ A representative of programs for children with
812 disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities

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813 Education Act, who shall be a nonvoting member.

814 ~~6.7.~~ Including the members appointed by the Governor under
815 subparagraph ~~4.5.~~, more than one-third of the members of each
816 early learning coalition must be private sector business members
817 who do not have, and none of whose relatives as defined in s.
818 112.3143 has, a substantial financial interest in the design or
819 delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
820 created under part V of chapter 1002 or the coalition's school
821 readiness program. To meet this requirement an early learning
822 coalition must appoint additional members ~~from a list of~~
823 ~~nominees submitted to the coalition by a chamber of commerce or~~
824 ~~economic development council within the geographic region served~~
825 ~~by the coalition.~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
826 establish criteria for appointing private sector business
827 members. These criteria must include standards for determining
828 whether a member or relative has a substantial financial
829 interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
830 Prekindergarten Education Program or the coalition's school
831 readiness program.

832 ~~7.8.~~ A majority of the voting membership of an early
833 learning coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the
834 business of the coalition. An early learning coalition board may
835 use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings,
836 including establishing a quorum through telecommunications,
837 provided that the public is given proper notice of a
838 telecommunications meeting and reasonable access to observe and,
839 when appropriate, participate.

840 ~~8.9.~~ A voting member of an early learning coalition may

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841 not appoint a designee to act in his or her place, except as
842 otherwise provided in this paragraph. A voting member may send a
843 representative to coalition meetings, but that representative
844 does not have voting privileges. When a district administrator
845 for the Department of Children and Family Services appoints a
846 designee to an early learning coalition, the designee is the
847 voting member of the coalition, and any individual attending in
848 the designee's place, including the district administrator, does
849 not have voting privileges.

850 ~~9.10.~~ Each member of an early learning coalition is
851 subject to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. For purposes of
852 s. 112.3143(3)(a), each voting member is a local public officer
853 who must abstain from voting when a voting conflict exists.

854 ~~10.11.~~ For purposes of tort liability, each member or
855 employee of an early learning coalition shall be governed by s.
856 768.28.

857 ~~11.12.~~ An early learning coalition serving a multicounty
858 region must include representation from each county.

859 ~~12.13.~~ Each early learning coalition shall establish terms
860 for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must be
861 staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4
862 years per term. Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years
863 in conjunction with their membership on the Early Learning
864 Advisory Council under s. 20.052. Appointed members may serve a
865 maximum of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an
866 appointed position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

867 (b) Limitation.—Except as provided by law, the early
868 learning coalitions may not impose requirements on a child care

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869 or early childhood education provider that does not deliver
870 services under the school readiness programs or receive state,
871 federal, required maintenance of effort, or matching funds under
872 this section.

873 ~~(b) Program participation.—The school readiness program~~
874 ~~shall be established for children from birth to the beginning of~~
875 ~~the school year for which a child is eligible for admission to~~
876 ~~kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. The~~
877 ~~program shall be administered by the early learning coalition.~~
878 ~~Within funding limitations, the early learning coalition, along~~
879 ~~with all providers, shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate~~
880 ~~the needs of children for extended-day and extended-year~~
881 ~~services without compromising the quality of the program.~~

882 (c) Program expectations.—

883 1. The school readiness program must meet the following
884 expectations:

885 a. The program must, at a minimum, enhance the age-
886 appropriate progress of each child in attaining ~~the development~~
887 ~~of the school readiness skills required under paragraph (4)(j),~~
888 ~~as measured by the performance standards and outcome measures~~
889 ~~adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.~~

890 b. The program must provide extended-day and extended-year
891 services to the maximum extent possible without compromising the
892 quality of the program to meet the needs of parents who work.

893 c. The program ~~There~~ must provide a ~~be~~ coordinated
894 professional staff development system that supports the
895 achievement and maintenance of core competencies by school
896 readiness instructors in helping children attain the performance

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897 standards and outcome measures adopted by the Agency for
898 Workforce Innovation ~~and teaching opportunities.~~

899 d. There must be expanded access to community services and
900 resources for families to help achieve economic self-
901 sufficiency.

902 e. There must be a single point of entry and unified
903 waiting list. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term "single
904 point of entry" means an integrated information system that
905 allows a parent to enroll his or her child in the school
906 readiness program at various locations throughout a the county
907 ~~or multicounty region served by an early learning coalition,~~
908 that may allow a parent to enroll his or her child by telephone
909 or through an Internet website, and that uses a unified waiting
910 list to track eligible children waiting for enrollment in the
911 school readiness program. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
912 shall establish through technology a single statewide
913 information system that each coalition must use for the purposes
914 of managing the ~~integrates each early learning coalition's~~
915 single point of entry, tracking children's progress,
916 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining
917 eligibility, tracking child attendance, and streamlining
918 administrative processes for providers and early learning
919 coalitions ~~and each coalition must use the statewide system.~~

920 f. The Agency for Workforce Innovation must consider the
921 access of eligible children to the school readiness program, as
922 demonstrated in part by waiting lists, before approving a
923 proposed increase in payment rates submitted by an early
924 learning coalition. In addition, early learning coalitions shall

925 use school readiness funds made available due to enrollment
 926 shifts from school readiness programs to the Voluntary
 927 Prekindergarten Education Program for increasing the number of
 928 children served in school readiness programs before increasing
 929 payment rates.

930 ~~g. There must be a community plan to address the needs of~~
 931 ~~all eligible children.~~

932 ~~g.h.~~ The program must meet all state licensing guidelines,
 933 where applicable.

934 h. The program must ensure that minimum standards for
 935 child discipline practices are age-appropriate. Pursuant to s.
 936 402.305(12) and as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, such
 937 standards must provide that children not be subjected to
 938 discipline that is severe, humiliating, or frightening and may
 939 not be associated with food, rest, or toileting. Spanking or any
 940 other form of physical punishment is prohibited.

941 2. Each ~~The~~ early learning coalition must implement a
 942 comprehensive program of school readiness services in accordance
 943 with the rules adopted by the agency which ~~that~~ enhance the
 944 cognitive, social, and physical development of children to
 945 achieve the performance standards and outcome measures ~~adopted~~
 946 ~~by the agency for Workforce Innovation~~. At a minimum, these
 947 programs must contain the following system support service
 948 elements:

949 a. Developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to
 950 enhance the age-appropriate progress of children in attaining
 951 the performance standards adopted by the Agency for Workforce
 952 Innovation under subparagraph (4) (d) 8.

- 953 b. A character development program to develop basic
 954 values.
- 955 c. An age-appropriate screening ~~assessment~~ of each child's
 956 development.
- 957 d. An age-appropriate assessment ~~A pretest~~ administered to
 958 children when they enter a program and an age-appropriate
 959 assessment ~~a posttest~~ administered to children when they leave
 960 the program.
- 961 e. An appropriate staff-to-children ratio, pursuant to s.
 962 402.305(4) or s. 402.302(7) or (8), as applicable, and as
 963 verified pursuant to s. 402.311.
- 964 f. A healthy and safe environment pursuant to s.
 965 401.305(5), (6), and (7), and as verified pursuant to s.
 966 402.311.
- 967 g. A resource and referral network established under s.
 968 411.0101 to assist parents in making an informed choice and a
 969 regional Warm-Line under s. 411.01015.

970

971 The Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Department of
 972 Education, and early learning coalitions shall coordinate with
 973 the Child Care Services Program Office of the Department of
 974 Children and Family Services to minimize duplicating interagency
 975 activities pertaining to acquiring and composing data for child
 976 care training and credentialing.

977 (d) Implementation.—

- 978 1. An early learning coalition may not implement the
 979 school readiness program until the coalition is authorized
 980 through approval of the coalition's school readiness plan by the

981 Agency for Workforce Innovation.

982 2. Each early learning coalition shall coordinate with one
 983 another to implement a comprehensive program of school readiness
 984 services which enhances the cognitive, social, physical, and
 985 moral character of the children to achieve the performance
 986 standards and outcome measures, helps families achieve economic
 987 self-sufficiency, and reduces agency duplication. Such program
 988 must contain, at a minimum, the following elements: ~~develop a~~
 989 plan for implementing

990 a. Implement the school readiness program to meet the
 991 requirements of this section and the system support services
 992 performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the Agency
 993 for Workforce Innovation.

994 b. ~~The plan must~~ Demonstrate how the program will ensure
 995 that each ~~3-year-old and 4-year-old~~ child from birth through 5
 996 years of age in a publicly funded school readiness program
 997 receives scheduled activities and instruction designed to
 998 enhance the age-appropriate progress of the children in
 999 attaining the performance standards adopted by the Agency for
 1000 Workforce Innovation under subparagraph (4) (d) 8.

1001 c. Ensure that the coalition has solicited and considered
 1002 comments regarding the proposed school readiness plan from the
 1003 local community.

1004
 1005 Before implementing the school readiness program, the early
 1006 learning coalition must submit the plan to the Agency for
 1007 Workforce Innovation for approval. The Agency for Workforce
 1008 Innovation may approve the plan, reject the plan, or approve the

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1009 | plan with conditions. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
 1010 | review school readiness plans at least every 2 years annually.

1011 | 3. If the Agency for Workforce Innovation determines
 1012 | during the annual review of school readiness plans, or through
 1013 | monitoring and performance evaluations conducted under paragraph
 1014 | (4) (1), that an early learning coalition has not substantially
 1015 | implemented its plan, has not substantially met the performance
 1016 | standards and outcome measures adopted by the agency, or has not
 1017 | effectively administered the school readiness program or
 1018 | Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the Agency for
 1019 | Workforce Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily
 1020 | contract with a qualified entity to continue school readiness
 1021 | and prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
 1022 | multicounty region until the agency reestablishes the coalition
 1023 | and a new ~~the coalition is reestablished through resubmission of~~
 1024 | ~~a school readiness plan~~ is approved in accordance with the rules
 1025 | adopted ~~and approval~~ by the agency.

1026 | 4. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt rules
 1027 | establishing criteria for the approval of school readiness
 1028 | plans. The criteria must be consistent with the system support
 1029 | services, performance standards, and outcome measures adopted by
 1030 | the agency and must require each approved plan to include the
 1031 | following minimum standards and provisions for the school
 1032 | readiness program:

1033 | a. A community plan that addresses the needs of all
 1034 | children and providers within the coalition's county or
 1035 | multicounty region.

1036 | ~~b.a.~~ A sliding fee scale establishing a copayment for

1037 parents based upon their ability to pay, which is the same for
 1038 all program providers, ~~to be implemented and reflected in each~~
 1039 ~~program's budget.~~

1040 ~~c.b.~~ A choice of settings and locations in licensed,
 1041 registered, religious-exempt, or school-based programs to be
 1042 provided to parents.

1043 ~~e.~~ ~~Instructional staff who have completed the training~~
 1044 ~~course as required in s. 402.305(2)(d)1., as well as staff who~~
 1045 ~~have additional training or credentials as required by the~~
 1046 ~~Agency for Workforce Innovation. The plan must provide a method~~
 1047 ~~for assuring the qualifications of all personnel in all program~~
 1048 ~~settings.~~

1049 d. Specific eligibility priorities for children ~~within the~~
 1050 ~~early learning coalition's county or multicounty region in~~
 1051 accordance with subsection (6).

1052 e. Performance standards and outcome measures adopted by
 1053 the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

1054 f. Payment rates adopted by the early learning coalitions
 1055 ~~coalition~~ and approved by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
 1056 Payment rates may not have the effect of limiting parental
 1057 choice or creating standards or levels of services that have not
 1058 been expressly established ~~authorized~~ by the Legislature, unless
 1059 the creation of such standards or levels of service is a
 1060 precondition for the state's eligibility to receive federal
 1061 funds available for early learning programs.

1062 ~~g.~~ ~~Systems support services, including a central agency,~~
 1063 ~~child care resource and referral, eligibility determinations,~~
 1064 ~~training of providers, and parent support and involvement.~~

1065 h. Direct enhancement services for ~~to~~ families and
 1066 children. System support and direct enhancement services shall
 1067 be in addition to payments for the placement of children in
 1068 school readiness programs. Direct enhancement services for
 1069 families may include parent training and involvement activities
 1070 and strategies to meet the needs of unique populations and local
 1071 eligibility priorities. Enhancement services for children may
 1072 include provider supports and professional development approved
 1073 in the plan by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

1074 i. The business organization of the early learning
 1075 coalition, which must include the coalition's articles of
 1076 incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a
 1077 corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation
 1078 or other business entity, the plan must include the contract
 1079 with a fiscal agent. An early learning coalition may contract
 1080 with other coalitions to achieve efficiency in multicounty
 1081 services, and these contracts may be part of the coalition's
 1082 school readiness plan.

1083 j. The implementation of locally developed quality
 1084 programs in accordance with the requirements adopted by the
 1085 agency under subparagraph (4) (d) 5.

1086 ~~j. Strategies to meet the needs of unique populations,~~
 1087 ~~such as migrant workers.~~

1088
 1089 ~~As part of the school readiness plan,~~ The Agency for Workforce
 1090 Innovation ~~early learning coalition~~ may request the Governor to
 1091 apply for a waiver to allow the coalition to administer the Head
 1092 Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness

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1093 ~~program. If a school readiness plan demonstrates that specific~~
1094 ~~statutory goals can be achieved more effectively by using~~
1095 ~~procedures that require modification of existing rules,~~
1096 ~~policies, or procedures, a request for a waiver to the Agency~~
1097 ~~for Workforce Innovation may be submitted as part of the plan.~~
1098 ~~Upon review, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may grant the~~
1099 ~~proposed modification.~~

1100 5. Persons with an early childhood teaching certificate
1101 may provide support and supervision to other staff in the school
1102 readiness program.

1103 6. An early learning coalition may not implement its
1104 school readiness plan until it submits the plan to and receives
1105 approval from the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Once the plan
1106 is approved, the plan and the services provided under the plan
1107 shall be controlled by the early learning coalition. The plan
1108 shall be reviewed and revised as necessary, but at least
1109 biennially. An early learning coalition may not implement the
1110 revisions until the coalition submits the revised plan to and
1111 receives approval from the Agency for Workforce Innovation. If
1112 the Agency for Workforce Innovation rejects a revised plan, the
1113 coalition must continue to operate under its prior approved
1114 plan.

1115 7. Sections 125.901(2)(a)3., 411.221, and 411.232 do not
1116 apply to ~~an early learning coalition with an approved school~~
1117 ~~readiness programs plan.~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation ~~to~~
1118 ~~facilitate innovative practices and to allow the regional~~
1119 ~~establishment of school readiness programs, an early learning~~
1120 ~~coalition~~ may apply to the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of,

1121 and the Governor and Cabinet may waive, any of the provisions of
 1122 ss. 411.223, 411.232, and 1003.54, if the waiver is necessary
 1123 for implementation of ~~the coalition's~~ school readiness programs
 1124 ~~plan.~~

1125 8. Two or more early learning coalitions ~~counties~~ may join
 1126 for purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness
 1127 program.

1128 ~~9. An early learning coalition may, subject to approval by~~
 1129 ~~The Agency for Workforce Innovation as part of the coalition's~~
 1130 ~~school readiness plan, receive subsidized child care funds for~~
 1131 ~~all children eligible for any federal subsidized child care~~
 1132 ~~program.~~

1133 ~~10. An early learning coalition may enter into multiparty~~
 1134 ~~contracts with multicounty service providers in order to meet~~
 1135 ~~the needs of unique populations such as migrant workers.~~

1136 (e) Requests for proposals; payment schedule.-

1137 1. Each early learning coalition must comply with the
 1138 procurement and expenditure procedures adopted by the Agency for
 1139 Workforce Innovation, including, but not limited to, applying
 1140 the procurement and expenditure procedures required by federal
 1141 law for the expenditure of federal funds s. 287.057 for the
 1142 ~~procurement of commodities or contractual services from the~~
 1143 ~~funds described in paragraph (9) (d). The period of a contract~~
 1144 ~~for purchase of these commodities or contractual services,~~
 1145 ~~together with any renewal of the original contract, may not~~
 1146 ~~exceed 3 years.~~

1147 2. Each early learning coalition shall adopt a payment
 1148 schedule that encompasses all programs funded ~~by the coalition~~

1149 | under this section. The payment schedule must take into
1150 | consideration the prevailing ~~relevant~~ market rate, must include
1151 | the projected number of children to be served, and must be
1152 | submitted for approval by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
1153 | Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more
1154 | than 50 percent of the rate adopted ~~developed~~ for a family day
1155 | care home.

1156 | ~~(f) Requirements relating to fiscal agents. If an early~~
1157 | ~~learning coalition is not legally organized as a corporation or~~
1158 | ~~other business entity, the coalition must designate a fiscal~~
1159 | ~~agent, which may be a public entity, a private nonprofit~~
1160 | ~~organization, or a certified public accountant who holds a~~
1161 | ~~license under chapter 473. The fiscal agent must provide~~
1162 | ~~financial and administrative services under a contract with the~~
1163 | ~~early learning coalition. The fiscal agent may not provide~~
1164 | ~~direct early childhood education or child care services;~~
1165 | ~~however, a fiscal agent may provide those services upon written~~
1166 | ~~request of the early learning coalition to the Agency for~~
1167 | ~~Workforce Innovation and upon the approval of the request by the~~
1168 | ~~agency. The cost of the financial and administrative services~~
1169 | ~~shall be negotiated between the fiscal agent and the early~~
1170 | ~~learning coalition. If the fiscal agent is a provider of early~~
1171 | ~~childhood education and child care programs, the contract must~~
1172 | ~~specify that the fiscal agent shall act on policy direction from~~
1173 | ~~the early learning coalition and must not receive policy~~
1174 | ~~direction from its own corporate board regarding disbursement of~~
1175 | ~~the coalition's funds. The fiscal agent shall disburse funds in~~
1176 | ~~accordance with the early learning coalition's approved school~~

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1177 ~~readiness plan and based on billing and disbursement procedures~~
1178 ~~approved by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The fiscal~~
1179 ~~agent must conform to all data-reporting requirements~~
1180 ~~established by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.~~

1181 (f) ~~(g)~~ Evaluation and annual report.—Each early learning
1182 coalition shall conduct an evaluation of its implementation the
1183 ~~effectiveness~~ of the school readiness program, including system
1184 support services, performance standards, and outcome measures,
1185 and shall provide an annual report and fiscal statement to the
1186 Agency for Workforce Innovation. This report must also include
1187 an evaluation of the effectiveness of its direct enhancement
1188 services and conform to the content and format specifications
1189 adopted ~~set~~ by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Agency
1190 for Workforce Innovation must include an analysis of the early
1191 learning coalitions' reports in the agency's annual report.

1192 (6) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—The ~~Each~~ early learning
1193 ~~coalition's~~ school readiness program is ~~shall be~~ established for
1194 children from birth to the beginning of the school year for
1195 which a child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a
1196 public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. or who are eligible for
1197 any federal subsidized child care program. Each early learning
1198 coalition shall give priority for participation in the school
1199 readiness program as follows:

1200 (a) Priority shall be given first to a child from a family
1201 in which there is an adult receiving temporary cash assistance
1202 who is subject to federal work requirements.

1203 (b) Priority shall be given next to a child who is
1204 eligible for a school readiness program but who has not yet

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1205 ~~entered children age 3 years to school,~~ entry who is ~~are~~ served
 1206 by the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of
 1207 Children and Family Services or a community-based lead agency
 1208 under chapter 39 or chapter 409, and for whom child care is
 1209 needed to minimize risk of further abuse, neglect, or
 1210 abandonment.

1211 (c) Subsequent priority shall be given to a child ~~Other~~
 1212 ~~eligible populations include children~~ who meets ~~meet~~ one or more
 1213 of the following criteria:

1214 1.(a) A child who is younger than ~~Children under~~ the age
 1215 of kindergarten eligibility and ~~who are~~:

1216 ~~1. Children determined to be at risk of abuse, neglect, or~~
 1217 ~~exploitation who are currently clients of the Family Safety~~
 1218 ~~Program Office of the Department of Children and Family~~
 1219 ~~Services, but who are not otherwise given priority under this~~
 1220 ~~subsection.~~

1221 a.2. Is ~~Children~~ at risk of welfare dependency, including
 1222 an economically disadvantaged child ~~children,~~ a child ~~children~~
 1223 of a participant ~~participants~~ in the welfare transition program,
 1224 a child of a migratory agricultural worker ~~children of migrant~~
 1225 ~~farmworkers,~~ or a child ~~and children~~ of a teen parent ~~parents.~~

1226 b.3. Is a member ~~Children~~ of a working family that is
 1227 economically disadvantaged ~~families whose family income does not~~
 1228 ~~exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.~~

1229 c.4. Children For whom financial assistance is provided
 1230 through the state is paying a Relative Caregiver Program ~~payment~~
 1231 under s. 39.5085.

1232 2.(b) A 3-year-old child or ~~Three-year-old children and 4-~~

1233 | year-old child ~~children~~ who may not be economically
 1234 | disadvantaged but who has a disability; has ~~have disabilities,~~
 1235 | ~~have~~ been served in a specific part-time exceptional education
 1236 | program or a combination of part-time exceptional education
 1237 | programs with required special services, aids, or equipment;;
 1238 | and was ~~were~~ previously reported for funding part time under
 1239 | ~~with~~ the Florida Education Finance Program as an exceptional
 1240 | student ~~students~~.

1241 | 3.~~(e)~~ An economically disadvantaged child ~~children~~, a
 1242 | child ~~children~~ with a disability ~~disabilities~~, or a child and
 1243 | ~~children~~ at risk of future school failure, from birth to 4 years
 1244 | of age, who is ~~are~~ served at home through a home visitor program
 1245 | ~~programs~~ and an intensive parent education program ~~programs~~.

1246 | 4.~~(d)~~ A child ~~Children~~ who meets ~~meet~~ federal and state
 1247 | eligibility requirements for the migrant preschool program but
 1248 | who is ~~do~~ not ~~meet the criteria~~ of economically disadvantaged.

1250 | As used in this paragraph ~~subsection~~, the term "economically
 1251 | disadvantaged" ~~child~~ means having a ~~child whose~~ family income
 1252 | that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
 1253 | Notwithstanding any change in a family's economic status, but
 1254 | subject to additional family contributions in accordance with
 1255 | the sliding fee scale, a child who meets the eligibility
 1256 | requirements upon initial registration for the program remains
 1257 | eligible until the beginning of the school year for which the
 1258 | child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public
 1259 | school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.

1260 | (7) PARENTAL CHOICE.—

1261 (a) As used in this subsection, the term "payment
 1262 certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45
 1263 C.F.R. s. 98.2.

1264 (b) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with
 1265 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment
 1266 certificate ~~purchase service order~~ that ensures, to the maximum
 1267 extent possible, flexibility in the school readiness program
 1268 ~~programs~~ and payment arrangements. ~~According to federal~~
 1269 ~~regulations requiring parental choice, a parent may choose an~~
 1270 ~~informal child care arrangement.~~ The payment certificate
 1271 ~~purchase order~~ must bear the names ~~name~~ of the beneficiary and
 1272 the program provider and, when redeemed, must bear the
 1273 signatures ~~signature~~ of both the beneficiary and an authorized
 1274 representative of the provider.

1275 (c) ~~(b)~~ If it is determined that a provider has given
 1276 ~~provided~~ any cash to the beneficiary in return for receiving a
 1277 payment certificate ~~the purchase order~~, the early learning
 1278 coalition or its fiscal agent shall refer the matter to the
 1279 Division of Public Assistance Fraud for investigation.

1280 (d) ~~(e)~~ The office of the Chief Financial Officer shall
 1281 establish an electronic transfer system for the disbursement of
 1282 funds in accordance with this subsection. Each early learning
 1283 coalition shall fully implement the electronic funds transfer
 1284 system within 2 years after approval of the coalition's school
 1285 readiness plan, unless a waiver is obtained from the Agency for
 1286 Workforce Innovation.

1287 (8) STANDARDS; OUTCOME MEASURES.—A program provider
 1288 participating in the ~~All~~ school readiness program ~~programs~~ must

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1289 meet the performance standards and outcome measures adopted by
 1290 the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

1291 (9) FUNDING; SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM.—

1292 (a) It is the intent of this section to establish an
 1293 integrated and quality seamless service delivery system for all
 1294 publicly funded early childhood education and child care
 1295 programs operating in this state.

1296 (b)1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall administer
 1297 school readiness funds, plans, and policies and shall prepare
 1298 and submit a unified budget request for the school readiness
 1299 system in accordance with chapter 216.

1300 2. All instructions to early learning coalitions for
 1301 administering this section shall emanate from the Agency for
 1302 Workforce Innovation in accordance with the policies of the
 1303 Legislature.

1304 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation, subject to
 1305 legislative notice and review under s. 216.177, shall establish
 1306 ~~recommend~~ a formula for the allocation ~~among the early learning~~
 1307 ~~coalitions~~ of all state and federal school readiness funds
 1308 provided for children participating in the public or private
 1309 school readiness program, whether served by a public or private
 1310 provider, programs based upon equity for each county and
 1311 ~~performance~~. The allocation formula must be submitted to the
 1312 Governor, the chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee or
 1313 its successor, and the chair of the House of Representatives
 1314 Fiscal Council or its successor no later than January 1 of each
 1315 year. If the Legislature specifies ~~shall specify in the annual~~
 1316 ~~General Appropriations Act any changes to~~ from the allocation

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1317 ~~formula, methodology for the prior fiscal year which must be~~
 1318 ~~used by~~ the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall allocate funds
 1319 as specified ~~in allocating the appropriations provided in the~~
 1320 General Appropriations Act.

1321 (d) All state, federal, and required local maintenance-of-
 1322 effort, or matching funds provided to an early learning
 1323 coalition for purposes of this section shall be used ~~by the~~
 1324 ~~coalition~~ for implementation of its approved school readiness
 1325 plan, including the hiring of staff to effectively operate the
 1326 coalition's school readiness program. As part of plan approval
 1327 and periodic plan review, The Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1328 shall require that administrative costs be kept to the minimum
 1329 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
 1330 school readiness plan, but total administrative expenditures
 1331 must not exceed 5 percent unless specifically waived by the
 1332 Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Agency for Workforce
 1333 Innovation shall annually report to the Legislature any problems
 1334 relating to administrative costs.

1335 (e) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall annually
 1336 ~~distribute, to a maximum extent practicable,~~ all eligible funds
 1337 provided under this section as block grants to the early
 1338 learning coalitions in accordance with the terms and conditions
 1339 specified by the agency.

1340 (f) State funds appropriated for the school readiness
 1341 program may not be used for the construction of new facilities
 1342 or the purchase of buses. ~~The Agency for Workforce Innovation~~
 1343 ~~shall present to the Legislature recommendations for providing~~
 1344 ~~necessary transportation services for school readiness programs.~~

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1345 (g) All cost savings and all revenues received through a
 1346 mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to help fund each
 1347 early learning coalition's school readiness program.

1348 (10) CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.—~~If In the event of~~ a conflict
 1349 exists between this section and federal requirements, the
 1350 federal requirements ~~shall~~ control.

1351 ~~(11) PLACEMENTS. Notwithstanding any other provision of~~
 1352 ~~this section to the contrary, the first children to be placed in~~
 1353 ~~the school readiness program shall be those from families~~
 1354 ~~receiving temporary cash assistance and subject to federal work~~
 1355 ~~requirements. Subsequent placements shall be made in accordance~~
 1356 ~~with subsection (6).~~

1357 Section 17. Section 411.0101, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1358 to read:

1359 411.0101 Child care and early childhood resource and
 1360 referral.—

1361 (1) As a part of the school readiness programs, the Agency
 1362 for Workforce Innovation shall establish a statewide child care
 1363 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides
 1364 referrals to families for child care. Preference shall be given
 1365 to using the already established early learning coalitions as
 1366 the child care resource and referral agencies ~~agency~~. If an
 1367 early learning coalition cannot comply with the requirements to
 1368 offer the resource information component or does not want to
 1369 offer that service, the early learning coalition shall select
 1370 the resource and referral information ~~information~~ agency for its county or
 1371 multicounty region based upon a request for proposal pursuant to
 1372 s. 411.01(5)(e)1.

1373 (2) At least one child care resource and referral agency
 1374 must be established in each early learning coalition's county or
 1375 multicounty region. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
 1376 adopt rules regarding accessibility of child care resource and
 1377 referral services offered through child care resource and
 1378 referral agencies in each county or multicounty region which
 1379 include, at a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by
 1380 which parents may request services, and child care resource and
 1381 referral staff training requirements.

1382 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall
 1383 provide the following services:

1384 (a)~~(1)~~ Identification of existing public and private child
 1385 care and early childhood education services, including child
 1386 care services by public and private employers, and the
 1387 development of a resource file of those services through the
 1388 single statewide information system developed by the Agency for
 1389 Workforce Innovation under s. 411.01(5)(c)1.e. These services
 1390 may include family day care, public and private child care
 1391 programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head
 1392 Start, the school readiness program prekindergarten early
 1393 intervention programs, special education programs for
 1394 prekindergarten handicapped children who have disabilities,
 1395 services for children with developmental disabilities, full-time
 1396 and part-time programs, before-school and after-school programs,
 1397 vacation care programs, parent education, the WAGES Program, and
 1398 related family support services. The resource file shall
 1399 include, but not be limited to:

1400 1.(a) Type of program.

- 1401 2.~~(b)~~ Hours of service.
- 1402 3.~~(e)~~ Ages of children served.
- 1403 4.~~(d)~~ Number of children served.
- 1404 5.~~(e)~~ Significant program information.
- 1405 6.~~(f)~~ Fees and eligibility for services.
- 1406 7.~~(g)~~ Availability of transportation.
- 1407 (b)~~(2)~~ The establishment of a referral process that ~~which~~
- 1408 responds to parental need for information and that ~~which~~ is
- 1409 provided with full recognition of the confidentiality rights of
- 1410 parents. The resource and referral network ~~programs~~ shall make
- 1411 referrals to legally operating ~~licensed~~ child care facilities.
- 1412 Referrals may not ~~shall~~ be made to a ~~an unlicensed~~ child care
- 1413 facility that is operating illegally ~~or arrangement only if~~
- 1414 ~~there is no requirement that the facility or arrangement be~~
- 1415 ~~licensed.~~
- 1416 (c)~~(3)~~ Maintenance of ongoing documentation of requests
- 1417 for service tabulated through the internal referral process
- 1418 through the single statewide information system. The following
- 1419 documentation of requests for service shall be maintained by the
- 1420 ~~all~~ child care resource and referral network ~~agencies~~:
- 1421 1.~~(a)~~ Number of calls and contacts to the child care
- 1422 resource information and referral network ~~agency~~ component by
- 1423 type of service requested.
- 1424 2.~~(b)~~ Ages of children for whom service was requested.
- 1425 3.~~(e)~~ Time category of child care requests for each child.
- 1426 4.~~(d)~~ Special time category, such as nights, weekends, and
- 1427 swing shift.
- 1428 5.~~(e)~~ Reason that the child care is needed.

1429 6.~~(f)~~ Name of the employer and primary focus of the
 1430 business.

1431 (d)~~(4)~~ Provision of technical assistance to existing and
 1432 potential providers of child care services. This assistance may
 1433 include:

1434 1.~~(a)~~ Information on initiating new child care services,
 1435 zoning, and program and budget development and assistance in
 1436 finding such information from other sources.

1437 2.~~(b)~~ Information and resources which help existing child
 1438 care services providers to maximize their ability to serve
 1439 children and parents in their community.

1440 3.~~(c)~~ Information and incentives that may ~~which could~~ help
 1441 existing or planned child care services offered by public or
 1442 private employers seeking to maximize their ability to serve the
 1443 children of their working parent employees in their community,
 1444 through contractual or other funding arrangements with
 1445 businesses.

1446 (e)~~(5)~~ Assistance to families and employers in applying
 1447 for various sources of subsidy including, but not limited to,
 1448 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the school
 1449 readiness program ~~subsidized child care~~, Head Start,
 1450 ~~prekindergarten early intervention programs~~, Project
 1451 Independence, private scholarships, and the federal child and
 1452 dependent care tax credit.

1453 ~~(6) Assistance to state agencies in determining the market~~
 1454 ~~rate for child care.~~

1455 (f)~~(7)~~ Assistance in negotiating discounts or other
 1456 special arrangements with child care providers.

1457 ~~(8) Information and assistance to local interagency~~
 1458 ~~councils coordinating services for prekindergarten handicapped~~
 1459 ~~children.~~

1460 (g) ~~(9)~~ Assistance to families in identifying summer
 1461 recreation camp and summer day camp programs, and in evaluating
 1462 the health and safety qualities of summer recreation camp and
 1463 summer day camp programs, and in evaluating the health and
 1464 safety qualities of summer camp programs. Contingent upon
 1465 specific appropriation, a checklist of important health and
 1466 safety qualities that parents can use to choose their summer
 1467 camp programs shall be developed and distributed in a manner
 1468 that will reach parents interested in such programs for their
 1469 children.

1470 (h) ~~(10)~~ A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305
 1471 and licensed and registered family day care homes must provide
 1472 the statewide child care and resource and referral network
 1473 ~~agencies~~ with the following information annually:

- 1474 1. ~~(a)~~ Type of program.
- 1475 2. ~~(b)~~ Hours of service.
- 1476 3. ~~(e)~~ Ages of children served.
- 1477 4. ~~(d)~~ Fees and eligibility for services.

1478 (4) ~~(11)~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt
 1479 any rules necessary for the implementation and administration of
 1480 this section.

1481 Section 18. Subsection (3), paragraph (b) of subsection
 1482 (4), and paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (5) of section
 1483 411.0102, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1484 411.0102 Child Care Executive Partnership Act; findings

1485 and intent; grant; limitation; rules.-

1486 (3) There is created a body politic and corporate known as
 1487 the Child Care Executive Partnership which shall establish and
 1488 govern the Child Care Executive Partnership Program. The purpose
 1489 of the Child Care Executive Partnership Program is to utilize
 1490 state and federal funds as incentives for matching local funds
 1491 derived from local governments, employers, charitable
 1492 foundations, and other sources, so that Florida communities may
 1493 create local flexible partnerships with employers. The Child
 1494 Care Executive Partnership Program funds shall be used at the
 1495 discretion of local communities to meet the needs of working
 1496 parents. A child care purchasing pool shall be developed with
 1497 the state, federal, and local funds to provide subsidies to low-
 1498 income working parents whose family income does not exceed the
 1499 allowable income for any federally subsidized child care program
 1500 ~~who are eligible for subsidized child care~~ with a dollar-for-
 1501 dollar match from employers, local government, and other
 1502 matching contributions. The funds used from the child care
 1503 purchasing pool must be used to supplement or extend the use of
 1504 existing public or private funds.

1505 (4) The Child Care Executive Partnership, staffed by the
 1506 Agency for Workforce Innovation, shall consist of a
 1507 representative of the Executive Office of the Governor and nine
 1508 members of the corporate or child care community, appointed by
 1509 the Governor.

1510 (b) The Child Care Executive Partnership shall be chaired
 1511 by a member chosen by a majority vote and shall meet at least
 1512 quarterly and at other times upon the call of the chair. The

1513 Child Care Executive Partnership may use any method of
 1514 telecommunications to conduct meetings, including establishing a
 1515 quorum through telecommunications, only if the public is given
 1516 proper notice of a telecommunications meeting and reasonable
 1517 access to observe and, when appropriate, participate.

1518 (5)

1519 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation, in conjunction
 1520 with the Child Care Executive Partnership, shall develop
 1521 procedures for disbursement of funds through the child care
 1522 purchasing pools. In order to be considered for funding, an
 1523 early learning coalition or the Agency for Workforce Innovation
 1524 must commit to:

1525 1. Matching the state purchasing pool funds on a dollar-
 1526 for-dollar basis; and

1527 2. Expending only those public funds which are matched by
 1528 employers, local government, and other matching contributors who
 1529 contribute to the purchasing pool. Parents shall also pay a fee,
 1530 which may not ~~shall~~ be ~~not~~ less than the amount identified in
 1531 the early learning coalition's school readiness program
 1532 ~~subsidized child care~~ sliding fee scale.

1533 (d) Each early learning coalition board ~~shall be required~~
 1534 ~~to establish a community child care task force for each child~~
 1535 ~~care purchasing pool. The task force must be composed of~~
 1536 ~~employers, parents, private child care providers, and one~~
 1537 ~~representative from the local children's services council, if~~
 1538 ~~one exists in the area of the purchasing pool. The early~~
 1539 ~~learning coalition is expected to recruit the task force members~~
 1540 ~~from existing child care councils, commissions, or task forces~~

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1541 ~~already operating in the area of a purchasing pool. A majority~~
1542 ~~of the task force shall consist of employers. Each task force~~
1543 ~~shall~~ develop a plan for the use of child care purchasing pool
1544 funds. The plan must show how many children will be served by
1545 the purchasing pool, how many will be new to receiving child
1546 care services, and how the early learning coalition intends to
1547 attract new employers and their employees to the program.

1548 Section 19. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section
1549 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1550 411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.—The
1551 Department of Education and the Department of Health and
1552 Rehabilitative Services shall utilize the continuum of
1553 prevention and early assistance services for high-risk pregnant
1554 women and for high-risk and handicapped children and their
1555 families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for the
1556 intraagency and interagency program coordination, monitoring,
1557 and analysis required in this chapter. The continuum shall be
1558 the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for services
1559 for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped
1560 children and their families, and may be expanded or reduced as
1561 necessary for the enhancement of those services. Expansion or
1562 reduction of the continuum shall be determined by intraagency or
1563 interagency findings and agreement, whichever is applicable.
1564 Implementation of the continuum shall be based upon applicable
1565 eligibility criteria, availability of resources, and interagency
1566 prioritization when programs impact both agencies, or upon
1567 single agency prioritization when programs impact only one
1568 agency. The continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

1569 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND PARENTS
 1570 OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.—

1571 (b) Child care and early childhood programs, including,
 1572 but not limited to, ~~subsidized child care,~~ licensed
 1573 ~~nonsubsidized child care~~ facilities, family day care homes,
 1574 therapeutic child care, Head Start, and preschool programs in
 1575 public and private schools.

1576 Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 411.221, Florida
 1577 Statutes, is amended to read:

1578 411.221 Prevention and early assistance strategic plan;
 1579 agency responsibilities.—

1580 (2) The strategic plan and subsequent plan revisions shall
 1581 incorporate and otherwise utilize, to the fullest extent
 1582 possible, the evaluation findings and recommendations from
 1583 intraagency, independent third-party, field projects, and
 1584 reports issued by the Auditor General or the Office of Program
 1585 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, as well as the
 1586 recommendations of the Agency for Workforce Innovation State
 1587 ~~Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs.~~

1588 Section 21. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section
 1589 445.024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1590 445.024 Work requirements.—

1591 (4) PRIORITIZATION OF WORK REQUIREMENTS.—Regional
 1592 workforce boards shall require participation in work activities
 1593 to the maximum extent possible, subject to federal and state
 1594 funding. If funds are projected to be insufficient to allow
 1595 full-time work activities by all program participants who are
 1596 required to participate in work activities, regional workforce

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1597 boards shall screen participants and assign priority based on
 1598 the following:

1599 (c) A participant who has access to ~~subsidized or~~
 1600 ~~unsubsidized~~ child care services may be assigned priority for
 1601 work activities.

1602
 1603 Regional workforce boards may limit a participant's weekly work
 1604 requirement to the minimum required to meet federal work
 1605 activity requirements. Regional workforce boards may develop
 1606 screening and prioritization procedures based on the allocation
 1607 of resources, the availability of community resources, the
 1608 provision of supportive services, or the work activity needs of
 1609 the service area.

1610 Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 445.030, Florida
 1611 Statutes, is amended to read:

1612 445.030 Transitional education and training.—In order to
 1613 assist former recipients of temporary cash assistance who are
 1614 working or actively seeking employment in continuing their
 1615 training and upgrading their skills, education, or training,
 1616 support services may be provided for up to 2 years after the
 1617 family is no longer receiving temporary cash assistance. This
 1618 section does not constitute an entitlement to transitional
 1619 education and training. If funds are not sufficient to provide
 1620 services under this section, the board of directors of Workforce
 1621 Florida, Inc., may limit or otherwise prioritize transitional
 1622 education and training.

1623 (2) Regional workforce boards may authorize child care or
 1624 other support services in addition to services provided in

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1625 conjunction with employment. For example, a participant who is
 1626 employed full time may receive ~~subsidized~~ child care services
 1627 related to that employment and may also receive additional
 1628 ~~subsidized~~ child care services in conjunction with training to
 1629 upgrade the participant's skills.

1630 Section 23. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 1631 490.014, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1632 490.014 Exemptions.—

1633 (2) No person shall be required to be licensed or
 1634 provisionally licensed under this chapter who:

1635 (a) Is a salaried employee of a government agency; a
 1636 developmental disability facility or program; a mental health,
 1637 alcohol, or drug abuse facility operating under chapter 393,
 1638 chapter 394, or chapter 397; the statewide ~~subsidized child care~~
 1639 ~~program, subsidized child care case management program, or child~~
 1640 ~~care resource and referral network program~~ operating under s.
 1641 411.0101 ~~pursuant to chapter 402~~; a child-placing or child-
 1642 caring agency licensed pursuant to chapter 409; a domestic
 1643 violence center certified pursuant to chapter 39; an accredited
 1644 academic institution; or a research institution, if such
 1645 employee is performing duties for which he or she was trained
 1646 and hired solely within the confines of such agency, facility,
 1647 or institution, so long as the employee is not held out to the
 1648 public as a psychologist pursuant to s. 490.012(1)(a).

1649 Section 24. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 1650 491.014, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1651 491.014 Exemptions.—

1652 (4) No person shall be required to be licensed,

1653 provisionally licensed, registered, or certified under this
 1654 chapter who:

1655 (a) Is a salaried employee of a government agency; a
 1656 developmental disability facility or program; a, mental health,
 1657 alcohol, or drug abuse facility operating under chapter 393,
 1658 chapter 394, or chapter 397; the statewide ~~subsidized child care~~
 1659 ~~program, subsidized child care case management program, or child~~
 1660 care resource and referral network ~~program~~ operating under s.
 1661 411.0101 ~~pursuant to chapter 402~~; a child-placing or child-
 1662 caring agency licensed pursuant to chapter 409; a domestic
 1663 violence center certified pursuant to chapter 39; an accredited
 1664 academic institution; or a research institution, if such
 1665 employee is performing duties for which he or she was trained
 1666 and hired solely within the confines of such agency, facility,
 1667 or institution, so long as the employee is not held out to the
 1668 public as a clinical social worker, mental health counselor, or
 1669 marriage and family therapist.

1670 Section 25. Subsection (5) of section 1002.53, Florida
 1671 Statutes, is amended to read:

1672 1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
 1673 eligibility and enrollment.—

1674 (5) The early learning coalition shall provide each parent
 1675 enrolling a child in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1676 Program with a profile of every private prekindergarten provider
 1677 and public school delivering the program within the ~~coalition's~~
 1678 county where the child is being enrolled ~~or multicounty region~~.
 1679 The profiles shall be provided to parents in a format prescribed
 1680 by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The profiles must

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1681 include, at a minimum, the following information about each
 1682 provider and school:

1683 (a) The provider's or school's services, curriculum,
 1684 instructor credentials, and instructor-to-student ratio; and

1685 (b) The provider's or school's kindergarten readiness rate
 1686 calculated in accordance with s. 1002.69, based upon the most
 1687 recent available results of the statewide kindergarten
 1688 screening.

1689 Section 26. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section
 1690 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (5) is
 1691 added to that section, to read:

1692 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 1693 private prekindergarten providers.—

1694 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
 1695 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
 1696 following requirements:

1697 (b) The private prekindergarten provider must:

1698 1. Be accredited by an accrediting association that is a
 1699 member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation,
 1700 Advance Education, Inc. (AdvancED) ~~the Commission on~~
 1701 ~~International and Trans-Regional Accreditation~~, or the Florida
 1702 Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools and have written
 1703 accreditation standards that meet or exceed the state's
 1704 licensing requirements under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
 1705 402.3131 and require at least one onsite visit to the provider
 1706 or school before accreditation is granted;

1707 2. Hold a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation under
 1708 s. 402.281; or

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1709 3. Be licensed under s. 402.305, s. 402.313, or s.
1710 402.3131 and demonstrate, before delivering the Voluntary
1711 Prekindergarten Education Program, as verified by the early
1712 learning coalition, that the provider meets each of the
1713 requirements of the program under this part, including, but not
1714 limited to, the requirements for credentials and background
1715 screenings of prekindergarten instructors under paragraphs (c)
1716 and (d), minimum and maximum class sizes under paragraph (f),
1717 prekindergarten director credentials under paragraph (g), and a
1718 developmentally appropriate curriculum under s. 1002.67(2)(b).

1719 (5) Notwithstanding paragraph (3)(b), a private
1720 prekindergarten provider may not participate in the Voluntary
1721 Prekindergarten Education Program if the provider has child
1722 disciplinary policies that do not prohibit children from being
1723 subjected to discipline that is severe, humiliating,
1724 frightening, or associated with food, rest, toileting, spanking,
1725 or any other form of physical punishment as provided in s.
1726 402.305(12).

1727 Section 27. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section
1728 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1729 1002.67 Performance standards; curricula and
1730 accountability.—

1731 (3)

1732 (c)1. If the kindergarten readiness rate of a private
1733 prekindergarten provider or public school falls below the
1734 minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education as
1735 satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6), the early learning coalition
1736 or school district, as applicable, shall require the provider or

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1737 school to submit an improvement plan for approval by the
 1738 coalition or school district, as applicable, and to implement
 1739 the plan.

1740 2. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
 1741 fails to meet the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of
 1742 Education as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6) for 2 consecutive
 1743 years, the early learning coalition or school district, as
 1744 applicable, shall place the provider or school on probation and
 1745 must require the provider or school to take certain corrective
 1746 actions, including the use of a curriculum approved by the
 1747 department under paragraph (2)(c).

1748 3. A private prekindergarten provider or public school
 1749 that is placed on probation must continue the corrective actions
 1750 required under subparagraph 2., including the use of a
 1751 curriculum approved by the department, until the provider or
 1752 school meets the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of
 1753 Education as satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6).

1754 4. If a private prekindergarten provider or public school
 1755 remains on probation for 2 consecutive years and fails to meet
 1756 the minimum rate adopted by the State Board of Education as
 1757 satisfactory under s. 1002.69(6), the Agency for Workforce
 1758 Innovation shall require the early learning coalition or the
 1759 Department of Education shall require the school district, ~~as~~
 1760 ~~applicable,~~ to remove, as applicable, the provider or school
 1761 from eligibility to deliver the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1762 Education Program and receive state funds for the program.

1763 Section 28. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section
 1764 1002.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1765 | 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

1766 | (6)

1767 | (b)1. Each private prekindergarten provider's and district
 1768 | school board's attendance policy must require the parent of each
 1769 | student in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to
 1770 | verify, each month, the student's attendance on the prior
 1771 | month's certified student attendance.

1772 | 2. The parent must submit the verification of the
 1773 | student's attendance to the private prekindergarten provider or
 1774 | public school on forms prescribed by the Agency for Workforce
 1775 | Innovation. The forms must include, in addition to the
 1776 | verification of the student's attendance, a certification, in
 1777 | substantially the following form, that the parent continues to
 1778 | choose the private prekindergarten provider or public school in
 1779 | accordance with s. 1002.53 and directs that payments for the
 1780 | program be made to the provider or school:

1781 |
 1782 | VERIFICATION OF STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE
 1783 | AND CERTIFICATION OF PARENTAL CHOICE
 1784 |

1785 | I, ...(Name of Parent)..., swear (or affirm) that my
 1786 | child,...(Name of Student)..., attended the Voluntary
 1787 | Prekindergarten Education Program on the days listed above and
 1788 | certify that I continue to choose ...(Name of Provider or
 1789 | School)... to deliver the program for my child and direct that
 1790 | program funds be paid to the provider or school for my child.

1791 |
 1792 | ...(Signature of Parent)...

1793 | ... (Date) ...

1794 |

1795 | 3. The private prekindergarten provider or public school

1796 | must keep each original signed form for at least 2 years. Each

1797 | private prekindergarten provider must permit the early learning

1798 | coalition, and each public school must permit the school

1799 | district, to inspect the original signed forms during normal

1800 | business hours. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt

1801 | procedures for early learning coalitions and school districts to

1802 | review the original signed forms against the certified student

1803 | attendance. The review procedures shall provide for the use of

1804 | selective inspection techniques, including, but not limited to,

1805 | random sampling. Each early learning coalition and the school

1806 | districts ~~district~~ must comply with the review procedures.

1807 | Section 29. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section

1808 | 1009.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1809 | 1009.64 Certified Education Paraprofessional Welfare

1810 | Transition Program.—

1811 | (4) The agencies shall complete an implementation plan

1812 | that addresses at least the following recommended components of

1813 | the program:

1814 | (b) A budget for use of incentive funding to provide

1815 | motivation to participants to succeed and excel. The budget for

1816 | incentive funding includes:

1817 | 1. Funds allocated by the Legislature directly for the

1818 | program.

1819 | 2. Funds that may be made available from the federal

1820 | Workforce Investment Act based on client eligibility or

1821 requested waivers to make the clients eligible.

1822 3. Funds made available by implementation strategies that
 1823 would make maximum use of work supplementation funds authorized
 1824 by federal law.

1825 4. Funds authorized by strategies to lengthen
 1826 participants' eligibility for federal programs such as Medicaid,
 1827 ~~subsidized~~ child care services, and transportation.

1828
 1829 Incentives may include a stipend during periods of college
 1830 classroom training, a bonus and recognition for a high grade-
 1831 point average, child care and prekindergarten services for
 1832 children of participants, and services to increase a
 1833 participant's ability to advance to higher levels of employment.
 1834 Nonfinancial incentives should include providing a mentor or
 1835 tutor, and service incentives should continue and increase for
 1836 any participant who plans to complete the baccalaureate degree
 1837 and become a certified teacher. Services may be provided in
 1838 accordance with family choice by community colleges and school
 1839 district career centers, through family service centers and
 1840 full-service schools, or under contract with providers through
 1841 central agencies.

1842 Section 30. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.