

## ENROLLED

CS/HB 5103, Engrossed 1

2012 Legislature

1  
2 An act relating to school readiness programs; amending  
3 s. 411.01, F.S.; defining terms for purposes of the  
4 School Readiness Act; revising legislative intent  
5 related to operation of school readiness programs;  
6 revising the duties of the Office of Early Learning  
7 for administration of school readiness programs;  
8 providing for the preassessment and postassessment of  
9 children enrolled in school readiness programs;  
10 requiring early learning coalitions to annually  
11 contract with school readiness providers using a  
12 standardized statewide contract; authorizing the  
13 Office of Early Learning to adopt rules; revising the  
14 minimum number of children that each early learning  
15 coalition must serve; revising provisions related to  
16 the merger of coalitions; revising requirements for  
17 compliance by school readiness providers with state  
18 licensing requirements; revising provisions related to  
19 school readiness plans adopted by early learning  
20 coalitions; deleting provisions for the establishment  
21 of payment rates and sliding fee scales by early  
22 learning coalitions; revising procurement requirements  
23 and requirements for the expenditure of funds by early  
24 learning coalitions; revising the eligibility criteria  
25 for the enrollment of children in the school readiness  
26 program and the priorities by which children are  
27 enrolled; providing procedures and notice requirements  
28 for the disenrollment of children; providing reporting

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29 requirements for children who are absent from the  
30 program; providing for the allocation of school  
31 readiness funds and deleting provisions for the  
32 establishment of an allocation formula by the Office  
33 of Early Learning; limiting expenditures for  
34 administrative costs, quality activities, and  
35 nondirect services; providing for the payment of  
36 school readiness providers according to calculations  
37 of payment rates and sliding fee scales as provided in  
38 the General Appropriations Act; authorizing the Office  
39 of Early Learning to modify payment rates in certain  
40 geographic areas under certain circumstances; deleting  
41 a provision related to the applicability of provisions  
42 that conflict with federal requirements; defining the  
43 term "fraud" for purposes of the school readiness  
44 program; providing for investigations of fraud or  
45 overpayment in the school readiness program; providing  
46 for the repayment of identified overpayments; limiting  
47 the participation of school readiness providers and  
48 parents in the program until repayment is made in  
49 full; providing penalties for acts of fraud;  
50 conforming provisions; conforming cross-references;  
51 creating s. 411.013, F.S.; creating the School  
52 Readiness Allocation Conference; providing for  
53 conference principals; requiring the Office of Early  
54 Learning to submit recommendations to the conference  
55 for an allocation formula for school readiness program  
56 funds; providing for review of the formula and

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57 | agreement of the conference principals on conventions  
58 | and calculation methods for the formula; requiring the  
59 | Office of Early Learning to submit recommendations to  
60 | the conference for establishing provider payment rates  
61 | and parent copayments for a specified period;  
62 | providing for the phase in of the allocation formula  
63 | during a specified period; amending ss. 216.136 and  
64 | 411.0101, F.S.; conforming cross-references; amending  
65 | s. 411.01013, F.S.; revising provisions for  
66 | calculation of the prevailing market rate schedule;  
67 | requiring school readiness providers to annually  
68 | submit their market rates by a specified date;  
69 | amending ss. 411.0106 and 445.023, F.S.; conforming  
70 | cross-references; prohibiting the disenrollment of  
71 | children enrolled in the school readiness program  
72 | before the effective date of this act under certain  
73 | circumstances; providing for applicability; providing  
74 | effective dates.

75 |

76 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

77 |

78 | Section 1. Section 411.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
79 | read:

80 | 411.01 School readiness programs; early learning  
81 | coalitions.—

82 | (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "School  
83 | Readiness Act."

84 | (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—

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85 (a) The Legislature recognizes that school readiness  
86 programs increase children's chances of achieving future  
87 educational success and becoming productive members of society.  
88 It is the intent of the Legislature that the programs be  
89 developmentally appropriate, research-based, involve the parent  
90 as a child's first teacher, serve as preventive measures for  
91 children at risk of future school failure, enhance the  
92 educational readiness of eligible children, and support family  
93 education. Each school readiness program shall provide the  
94 elements necessary to prepare at-risk children for school,  
95 including health screening and referral and an appropriate  
96 educational program.

97 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that school  
98 readiness programs be operated on a full-time and part-time  
99 ~~full-day~~, year-round basis to the maximum extent possible to  
100 enable parents to work and become financially self-sufficient.

101 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that school  
102 readiness programs not exist as isolated programs, but build  
103 upon existing services and work in cooperation with other  
104 programs for young children, and that school readiness programs  
105 be coordinated to achieve full effectiveness.

106 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the  
107 administrative staff for school readiness programs be kept to  
108 the minimum necessary to administer the duties of the Office of  
109 Early Learning and early learning coalitions. The Office of  
110 Early Learning shall adopt system support services at the state  
111 level to build a comprehensive early learning system. Each early  
112 learning coalition shall implement and maintain direct

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113 enhancement services at the local level, as approved in its  
 114 school readiness plan by the Office of Early Learning, and  
 115 ensure access to such services in all 67 counties.

116 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that the school  
 117 readiness program coordinate and operate in conjunction with the  
 118 district school systems. However, it is also the intent of the  
 119 Legislature that the school readiness program not be construed  
 120 as part of the system of free public schools but rather as a  
 121 separate program for children under the age of kindergarten  
 122 eligibility, funded separately from the system of free public  
 123 schools, utilizing a mandatory sliding fee scale, and providing  
 124 an integrated and seamless system of school readiness services  
 125 for the state's birth-to-kindergarten population.

126 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that school  
 127 readiness services be an integrated and seamless program of  
 128 services with a developmentally appropriate education component  
 129 for the state's eligible birth-to-kindergarten population  
 130 described in subsection (7) ~~(6)~~ and not be construed as part of  
 131 the seamless K-20 education system.

132 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

133 (a) "Adjusted payment rate percentage" means a specified  
 134 percentage applied to the prevailing market rate for each type  
 135 of school readiness provider and level of care.

136 (b) "At-risk child" means:

137 1. A child from a family under investigation by the  
 138 Department of Children and Family Services or a designated  
 139 sheriff's office for child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or  
 140 exploitation.

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141           2. A child who is in a diversion program provided by the  
 142 Department of Children and Family Services or its contracted  
 143 provider and who is from a family that is actively participating  
 144 and complying in department-prescribed activities, including  
 145 education, health services, or work.

146           3. A child from a family that is under supervision by the  
 147 Department of Children and Family Services or a contracted  
 148 service provider for abuse, neglect, abandonment, or  
 149 exploitation.

150           4. A child placed in court-ordered, long-term custody or  
 151 under the guardianship of a relative or nonrelative after  
 152 termination of supervision by the Department of Children and  
 153 Family Services or its contracted provider.

154           (c) "Authorized hours of care" means the hours of care  
 155 that are necessary to provide protection, maintain employment,  
 156 or complete work activities or eligible educational activities,  
 157 including reasonable travel time.

158           (d) "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived from  
 159 work, professional service, or self-employment. The term  
 160 includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash  
 161 value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.

162           (e) "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family  
 163 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty  
 164 level and includes being a child of a working migratory family.

165           (f) "Family income" means the combined gross income,  
 166 whether earned or unearned, that is derived from any source by  
 167 all family or household members who are 18 years of age or older  
 168 and currently residing together in the same dwelling unit. The

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169 term does not include income earned by a currently enrolled high  
170 school student who, since attaining the age of 18 years, has not  
171 terminated school enrollment or received a high school diploma,  
172 high school equivalency diploma, special diploma, or certificate  
173 of high school completion. The term also does not include food  
174 stamp benefits or federal housing assistance payments issued  
175 directly to a landlord or the associated utilities expenses.

176 (g) "Family or household members" means spouses, former  
177 spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are  
178 parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have  
179 been married, and other persons who are currently residing  
180 together in the same dwelling unit as if a family.

181 (h) "Full-time care" means at least 6 hours, but not more  
182 than 11 hours, of child care or early childhood education  
183 services within a 24-hour period.

184 (i) "Gold Seal premium percentage" means a specified  
185 percentage that, for a school readiness provider that maintains  
186 the Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281, is  
187 applied to the provider's adjusted payment rate.

188 (j) "In loco parentis" means acting as a child's temporary  
189 guardian.

190 (k) "Market rate" means the price that a child care or  
191 early childhood education provider charges for full-time or  
192 part-time daily, weekly, or monthly child care or early  
193 childhood education services.

194 (l) "Office" means the Office of Early Learning of the  
195 Department of Education.

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196           (m) "Parent" means a parent by blood, marriage, or  
 197 adoption; a legal guardian; or another person standing in loco  
 198 parentis.

199           (n) "Part-time care" means less than 6 hours of child care  
 200 or early childhood education services within a 24-hour period.

201           (o) "Prevailing market rate" means the biennially  
 202 determined statewide median of the market rate for child care  
 203 and early childhood education services.

204           (p) "Unearned income" means income other than earned  
 205 income. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- 206           1. Documented alimony and child support received.
- 207           2. Social security benefits.
- 208           3. Supplemental security income benefits.
- 209           4. Workers' compensation benefits.
- 210           5. Unemployment compensation benefits.
- 211           6. Veterans' benefits.
- 212           7. Retirement benefits.
- 213           8. Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.
- 214           9. Military housing assistance under the federal Family  
 215 Subsistence Supplemental Allowance Program.

216           (q) "Working family" means:

217           1. A single-parent family in which the parent with whom  
 218 the child resides is employed or engaged in eligible education  
 219 activities for at least 20 hours per week;

220           2. A two-parent family in which both parents with whom the  
 221 child resides are each employed or engaged in eligible education  
 222 activities for at least 20 hours per week; or



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223           3. A family in which the parents, as prescribed by rule of  
 224 the Office of Early Learning, are exempt from work requirements  
 225 due to age or a disability as determined and documented by a  
 226 physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459.

227           ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL READINESS

228 PROGRAMS.—This section does not:

229           (a) Relieve parents and guardians of their own obligations  
 230 to prepare their children for school; or

231           (b) Create any obligation to provide publicly funded  
 232 school readiness programs or services beyond those authorized by  
 233 the Legislature.

234           ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
 235 EDUCATION.—

236           (a) The Office of Early Learning shall administer school  
 237 readiness programs at the state level and shall coordinate with  
 238 the early learning coalitions in providing school readiness  
 239 services ~~on a full-day, full-year, full-choice basis to the~~  
 240 ~~extent possible in order~~ to enable parents to work and be  
 241 financially self-sufficient.

242           (b) The Office of Early Learning shall:

243           1. Prioritize services for eligible children from birth  
 244 through kindergarten.

245           ~~2.1.~~ Coordinate the birth-to-kindergarten services for  
 246 children who are eligible under subsection (7) ~~(6)~~ and the  
 247 programmatic, administrative, and fiscal standards under this  
 248 chapter section for all ~~public~~ providers of school readiness  
 249 programs.

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250           ~~3.2.~~ Focus on improving the educational quality of all  
 251 program providers participating in publicly funded school  
 252 readiness programs.

253           ~~4.3.~~ Provide comprehensive services to ~~the state's birth-~~  
 254 ~~to-5~~ population, which shall ensure the preservation of parental  
 255 choice by permitting parents to choose from a variety of child  
 256 care categories, including: center-based child care; group home  
 257 child care; family child care; and in-home child care. Care and  
 258 curriculum by a sectarian provider may not be limited or  
 259 excluded in any of these categories.

260           (c) The Governor shall designate the Office of Early  
 261 Learning as the lead agency for administration of the federal  
 262 Child Care and Development Fund, 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99, and  
 263 the office shall comply with the lead agency responsibilities  
 264 under federal law.

265           (d) The Office of Early Learning shall:

266           1. Be responsible for the prudent use of all public and  
 267 private funds in accordance with all legal and contractual  
 268 requirements.

269           2. Adopt a uniform chart of accounts for budgeting and  
 270 financial reporting purposes that provides standardized  
 271 definitions for expenditures and reporting which are consistent  
 272 with subsection (10) for each of the following categories of  
 273 expenditures:

- 274           a. Direct services to children.
- 275           b. Administrative costs.
- 276           c. Quality activities.
- 277           d. Nondirect services.

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278 ~~3.2.~~ Provide final approval and every 2 years review early  
 279 learning coalitions and school readiness plans.

280 ~~4.3.~~ Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts  
 281 toward enhancement of school readiness. In support of this  
 282 effort, the Office of Early Learning shall adopt specific system  
 283 support services that address the state's school readiness  
 284 programs, and each. ~~An~~ early learning coalition shall implement  
 285 ~~amend its school readiness plan to conform to~~ the specific  
 286 system support services in its school readiness plan as provided  
 287 in subparagraph (6) (c) 2. ~~adopted by the Office of Early~~  
 288 ~~Learning. System support services shall include, but are not~~  
 289 ~~limited to:~~

- 290 ~~a. Child care resource and referral services;~~
- 291 ~~b. Warm-Line services;~~
- 292 ~~c. Eligibility determinations;~~
- 293 ~~d. Child performance standards;~~
- 294 ~~e. Child screening and assessment;~~
- 295 ~~f. Developmentally appropriate curricula;~~
- 296 ~~g. Health and safety requirements;~~
- 297 ~~h. Statewide data system requirements; and~~
- 298 ~~i. Rating and improvement systems.~~

299 ~~5.4.~~ Safeguard the effective use of federal, state, local,  
 300 and private resources to achieve the highest possible level of  
 301 school readiness for the children in this state.

302 ~~5.~~ ~~Adopt a rule establishing criteria for the expenditure~~  
 303 ~~of funds designated for the purpose of funding activities to~~  
 304 ~~improve the quality of child care within the state in accordance~~

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305 ~~with s. 658G of the federal Child Care and Development Block~~  
 306 ~~Grant Act.~~

307         6. Provide technical assistance to early learning  
 308 coalitions in a manner determined by the Office of Early  
 309 Learning based upon information obtained by the office from  
 310 various sources, including, but not limited to, public input,  
 311 government reports, private interest group reports, office  
 312 monitoring visits, and coalition requests for service.

313         7. In cooperation with the early learning coalitions,  
 314 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the  
 315 Department of Children and Family Services to minimize  
 316 duplicating interagency activities, health and safety  
 317 monitoring, and acquiring and composing data pertaining to child  
 318 care training and credentialing.

319         8. Develop and adopt performance standards and outcome  
 320 measures for school readiness programs. The performance  
 321 standards must address the age-appropriate progress of children  
 322 in the development of school readiness skills. The performance  
 323 standards for children from birth to 5 years of age in school  
 324 readiness programs must be integrated with the performance  
 325 standards adopted by the Department of Education for children in  
 326 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s.  
 327 1002.67.

328         9. Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the  
 329 performance standards for school readiness programs and  
 330 establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's  
 331 curriculum that meets the performance standards.

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332       10. By July 1, 2013, identify and adopt a preassessment  
333 and postassessment aligned with the performance standards  
334 adopted under subparagraph 8. Upon adoption, the preassessments  
335 and postassessments shall immediately be implemented and used by  
336 school readiness providers. The office shall collect the results  
337 of the preassessments and postassessments statewide to evaluate  
338 the effectiveness of the school readiness programs. At a  
339 minimum, a preassessment shall be administered to each child who  
340 participates in a school readiness program within the first 60  
341 days after enrollment. By May 30 of each year, a postassessment  
342 shall be administered to each child who participates in a  
343 provider's program for at least the previous 6 months.

344       11.9. Adopt a statewide provider ~~standard~~ contract, and  
345 prescribe a standardized format for such contract, which ~~that~~  
346 must be used by the coalitions to annually contract ~~when~~  
347 ~~contracting~~ with each school readiness provider ~~providers~~. A  
348 coalition may not omit, supplement, or amend any provision of  
349 the statewide provider contract. In addition, a coalition may  
350 not insert or append attachments, addenda, or exhibits to the  
351 statewide provider contract. The office shall publish a copy of  
352 the statewide provider contract on its Internet website and  
353 provide a copy of the contract to each coalition.

354       12. Adopt a standardized methodology for monitoring  
355 compliance by school readiness providers with the terms of the  
356 statewide provider contract adopted under subparagraph 11.

357       (e) The Office of Early Learning may adopt rules under ss.  
358 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer the provisions of law  
359 conferring duties upon the office, including, but not limited

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360 to, rules governing the administration of system support  
 361 services of school readiness programs, the adoption of a uniform  
 362 chart of accounts, the adoption of a statewide provider contract  
 363 and methodology for monitoring compliance with the contract, the  
 364 adoption of a list of approved curricula, the collection of  
 365 data, the approval of early learning coalitions and school  
 366 readiness plans, the provision of a method whereby an early  
 367 learning coalition may serve two or more counties, the award of  
 368 incentives to early learning coalitions, child performance  
 369 standards, child outcome measures, monitoring of the quality  
 370 activities as described in subparagraph (10)(d)2., the issuance  
 371 of waivers, and the implementation of the state's Child Care and  
 372 Development Fund Plan as approved by the federal Administration  
 373 for Children and Families.

374 (f) The Office of Early Learning shall have all powers  
 375 necessary to administer this section, including, but not limited  
 376 to, the power to receive and accept grants, loans, or advances  
 377 of funds from any public or private agency and to receive and  
 378 accept from any source contributions of money, property, labor,  
 379 or any other thing of value, to be held, used, and applied for  
 380 purposes of this section.

381 (g) Except as provided by law, the Office of Early  
 382 Learning may not impose requirements on a child care or early  
 383 childhood education provider that does not deliver services  
 384 under the school readiness programs or receive state or federal  
 385 funds under this section.

386 (h) The Office of Early Learning shall coordinate with  
 387 other state and federal agencies to perform data matches on

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388 children participating in school readiness programs and their  
 389 families in order to verify the children's eligibility pursuant  
 390 to subsection (7) have a budget for school readiness programs,  
 391 ~~which shall be financed through an annual appropriation made for~~  
 392 ~~purposes of this section in the General Appropriations Act.~~

393 (i) The Office of Early Learning shall coordinate the  
 394 efforts toward school readiness in this state and provide  
 395 independent policy analyses, data analyses, and recommendations  
 396 to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the  
 397 Legislature.

398 (j) The Office of Early Learning shall require that school  
 399 readiness programs, at a minimum, enhance the age-appropriate  
 400 progress of each child in attaining the performance standards  
 401 adopted under subparagraph (d)8. and in the development of the  
 402 following school readiness skills:

- 403 1. Compliance with rules, limitations, and routines.
- 404 2. Ability to perform tasks.
- 405 3. Interactions with adults.
- 406 4. Interactions with peers.
- 407 5. Ability to cope with challenges.
- 408 6. Self-help skills.
- 409 7. Ability to express the child's needs.
- 410 8. Verbal communication skills.
- 411 9. Problem-solving skills.
- 412 10. Following of verbal directions.
- 413 11. Demonstration of curiosity, persistence, and
- 414 exploratory behavior.
- 415 12. Interest in books and other printed materials.

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- 416 13. Paying attention to stories.
- 417 14. Participation in art and music activities.
- 418 15. Ability to identify colors, geometric shapes, letters
- 419 of the alphabet, numbers, and spatial and temporal
- 420 relationships.

421

422 Within 30 days after enrollment in the school readiness program,

423 the early learning coalition must ensure that the program

424 provider obtains information regarding the child's

425 immunizations, physical development, and other health

426 requirements as necessary, including appropriate vision and

427 hearing screening and examinations. ~~For a program provider~~

428 ~~licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services, the~~

429 ~~provider's compliance with s. 402.305(9), as verified pursuant~~

430 ~~to s. 402.311, shall satisfy this requirement.~~

431 (k) The Office of Early Learning shall conduct studies and

432 planning activities related to the overall improvement and

433 effectiveness of the outcome measures adopted by the office for

434 school readiness programs and the specific system support

435 services to address the state's school readiness programs

436 adopted by the Office of Early Learning in accordance with

437 subparagraph (d)4. ~~(d)3.~~

438 (l) The Office of Early Learning shall monitor and

439 evaluate the performance of each early learning coalition in

440 administering the school readiness program, implementing the

441 coalition's school readiness plan, and administering the

442 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. These monitoring

443 and performance evaluations must include, at a minimum, onsite



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444 monitoring of each coalition's finances, management, operations,  
445 and programs.

446 (m) The Office of Early Learning shall submit an annual  
447 report of its activities conducted under this section to the  
448 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House  
449 of Representatives, and the minority leaders of both houses of  
450 the Legislature. In addition, the Office of Early Learning's  
451 reports and recommendations shall be made available to the  
452 Florida Early Learning Advisory Council and other appropriate  
453 state agencies and entities. The annual report must provide an  
454 analysis of school readiness activities across the state,  
455 including the number of children who were served in the  
456 programs.

457 (n) The Office of Early Learning shall work with the early  
458 learning coalitions to ensure availability of training and  
459 support for parental involvement in children's early education  
460 and to provide family literacy activities and services.

461 (6)~~(5)~~ CREATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS.—

462 (a) Early learning coalitions.—

463 1. Each early learning coalition shall maintain direct  
464 enhancement services at the local level and ensure access to  
465 such services in all 67 counties.

466 2. The Office of Early Learning shall establish the  
467 minimum number of children to be served by each early learning  
468 coalition through the coalition's school readiness program. The  
469 Office of Early Learning may only approve school readiness plans  
470 in accordance with this minimum number. The minimum number must

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471 be uniform for every early learning coalition and must result in  
 472 the establishment of:

473 a. Thirty-one ~~Permit 31~~ or fewer coalitions ~~to be~~  
 474 ~~established;~~ and

475 b. Coalitions that are ~~Require~~ each of adequate size and  
 476 operational scale to comply with the expenditure limits in  
 477 paragraph (10) (d) coalition to serve at least 2,000 children  
 478 ~~based upon the average number of all children served per month~~  
 479 ~~through the coalition's school readiness program during the~~  
 480 ~~previous 12 months.~~

481 3. If an early learning coalition is not able to comply  
 482 with the expenditure limits in paragraph (10) (d) would serve  
 483 ~~fewer children than the minimum number established under~~  
 484 ~~subparagraph 2.~~, the coalition must merge with another  
 485 coalition, or two or more coalitions may agree to change the  
 486 counties that comprise each coalition, such that each resulting  
 487 county to form a multicounty coalition is of adequate size and  
 488 operational scale to comply with the expenditure limits. The  
 489 Office of Early Learning shall adopt procedures for merging  
 490 early learning coalitions, including procedures for the  
 491 consolidation of merging coalitions, and for the early  
 492 termination of the terms of coalition members which are  
 493 necessary to accomplish the mergers. However, the office may ~~of~~  
 494 ~~Early Learning shall~~ grant a waiver from this subparagraph for  
 495 ~~to~~ an early learning coalition that is unable to comply with the  
 496 expenditure limits in paragraph (10) (d) during the 2012-2013  
 497 fiscal year, the 2013-2014 fiscal year, or both fiscal years, if  
 498 the coalition submits to the office adequate documentation

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499 describing and justifying the reasons that the coalition was  
 500 unable to comply with the expenditure limits ~~to serve fewer~~  
 501 ~~children than the minimum number established under subparagraph~~  
 502 ~~2., if:~~

503 a. ~~The Office of Early Learning has determined during the~~  
 504 ~~most recent review of the coalition's school readiness plan, or~~  
 505 ~~through monitoring and performance evaluations conducted under~~  
 506 ~~paragraph (4) (1), that the coalition has substantially~~  
 507 ~~implemented its plan;~~

508 b. ~~The coalition demonstrates to the Office of Early~~  
 509 ~~Learning the coalition's ability to effectively and efficiently~~  
 510 ~~implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; and~~

511 c. ~~The coalition demonstrates to the Office of Early~~  
 512 ~~Learning that the coalition can perform its duties in accordance~~  
 513 ~~with law.~~

514  
 515 ~~If an early learning coalition fails or refuses to merge as~~  
 516 ~~required by this subparagraph, the Office of Early Learning may~~  
 517 ~~dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract with a qualified~~  
 518 ~~entity to continue school readiness and prekindergarten services~~  
 519 ~~in the coalition's county or multicounty region until the office~~  
 520 ~~reestablishes the coalition and a new school readiness plan is~~  
 521 ~~approved by the office.~~

522 4. Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at  
 523 least 15 members but not more than 30 members. The Office of  
 524 Early Learning shall adopt standards establishing within this  
 525 range the minimum and maximum number of members that may be  
 526 appointed to an early learning coalition and procedures for

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

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527 identifying which members have voting privileges under  
528 subparagraph 6. These standards must include variations for a  
529 coalition serving a multicounty region. Each early learning  
530 coalition must comply with these standards.

531 5. The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other  
532 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the  
533 same qualifications as private sector business members appointed  
534 by the coalition under subparagraph 7.

535 6. Each early learning coalition must include the  
536 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
537 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
538 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
539 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
540 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of  
541 such members may serve as a voting member:

542 a. A Department of Children and Family Services circuit  
543 administrator or his or her designee who is authorized to make  
544 decisions on behalf of the department.

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

548 c. A regional workforce board executive director or his or  
549 her designee.

550 d. A county health department director or his or her  
551 designee.

552 e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare board  
553 chair or executive director, if applicable.

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554 f. An agency head of a local licensing agency as defined  
 555 in s. 402.302, where applicable.

556 g. A president of a community college or his or her  
 557 designee.

558 h. One member appointed by a board of county commissioners  
 559 or the governing board of a municipality.

560 i. A central agency administrator, where applicable.

561 j. A Head Start director.

562 k. A representative of private for-profit child care  
 563 providers, including private for-profit family day care homes.

564 l. A representative of faith-based child care providers.

565 m. A representative of programs for children with  
 566 disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
 567 Education Act.

568 7. Including the members appointed by the Governor under  
 569 subparagraph 5., more than one-third of the members of each  
 570 early learning coalition must be private sector business members  
 571 who do not have, and none of whose relatives as defined in s.  
 572 112.3143 has, a substantial financial interest in the design or  
 573 delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
 574 created under part V of chapter 1002 or the coalition's school  
 575 readiness program. To meet this requirement an early learning  
 576 coalition must appoint additional members. The Office of Early  
 577 Learning shall establish criteria for appointing private sector  
 578 business members. These criteria must include standards for  
 579 determining whether a member or relative has a substantial  
 580 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary

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581 Prekindergarten Education Program or the coalition's school  
582 readiness program.

583 8. A majority of the voting membership of an early  
584 learning coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the  
585 business of the coalition. An early learning coalition board may  
586 use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings,  
587 including establishing a quorum through telecommunications,  
588 provided that the public is given proper notice of a  
589 telecommunications meeting and reasonable access to observe and,  
590 when appropriate, participate.

591 9. A voting member of an early learning coalition may not  
592 appoint a designee to act in his or her place, except as  
593 otherwise provided in this paragraph. A voting member may send a  
594 representative to coalition meetings, but that representative  
595 does not have voting privileges. When a district administrator  
596 for the Department of Children and Family Services appoints a  
597 designee to an early learning coalition, the designee is the  
598 voting member of the coalition, and any individual attending in  
599 the designee's place, including the district administrator, does  
600 not have voting privileges.

601 10. Each member of an early learning coalition is subject  
602 to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. For purposes of s.  
603 112.3143(3)(a), each voting member is a local public officer who  
604 must abstain from voting when a voting conflict exists.

605 11. For purposes of tort liability, each member or  
606 employee of an early learning coalition shall be governed by s.  
607 768.28.

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608           12. An early learning coalition serving a multicounty  
609 region must include representation from each county.

610           13. Each early learning coalition shall establish terms  
611 for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must be  
612 staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4  
613 years per term. Coalition chairs shall be appointed for 4 years  
614 in conjunction with their membership on the Early Learning  
615 Advisory Council under s. 20.052. Appointed members may serve a  
616 maximum of two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an  
617 appointed position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

618           (b) Limitation.—Except as provided by law, the early  
619 learning coalitions may not impose requirements on a child care  
620 or early childhood education provider that does not deliver  
621 services under the school readiness programs or receive state,  
622 federal, required maintenance of effort, or matching funds under  
623 this section.

624           (c) Program expectations.—

625           1. The school readiness program must meet the following  
626 expectations:

627           a. The program must, at a minimum, enhance the age-  
628 appropriate progress of each child in attaining the performance  
629 standards and outcome measures adopted by the Office of Early  
630 Learning.

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

634           c. The program must provide a coordinated professional  
635 development system that supports the achievement and maintenance

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636 of core competencies by school readiness instructors in helping  
637 children attain the performance standards and outcome measures  
638 adopted by the Office of Early Learning.

639 d. There must be expanded access to community services and  
640 resources for families to help achieve economic self-  
641 sufficiency.

642 e. There must be a single point of entry and unified  
643 waiting list. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term "single  
644 point of entry" means an integrated information system that  
645 allows a parent to enroll his or her child in the school  
646 readiness program at various locations throughout a county, that  
647 may allow a parent to enroll his or her child by telephone or  
648 through an Internet website, and that uses a unified waiting  
649 list to track eligible children waiting for enrollment in the  
650 school readiness program. The Office of Early Learning shall  
651 establish through technology a single statewide information  
652 system that each coalition must use for the purposes of managing  
653 the single point of entry, tracking children's progress,  
654 coordinating services among stakeholders, determining  
655 eligibility, tracking child attendance, and streamlining  
656 administrative processes for providers and early learning  
657 coalitions.

658 ~~f. The Office of Early Learning must consider the access~~  
659 ~~of eligible children to the school readiness program, as~~  
660 ~~demonstrated in part by waiting lists, before approving a~~  
661 ~~proposed increase in payment rates submitted by an early~~  
662 ~~learning coalition. In addition, early learning coalitions shall~~  
663 ~~use school readiness funds made available due to enrollment~~



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664 ~~shifts from school readiness programs to the Voluntary~~  
 665 ~~Prekindergarten Education Program for increasing the number of~~  
 666 ~~children served in school readiness programs before increasing~~  
 667 ~~payment rates.~~

668 f.g. The program must meet all state licensing guidelines,  
 669 where applicable. For a child care facility, large family child  
 670 care home, or licensed family day care home, compliance with s.  
 671 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 satisfies this requirement.  
 672 For a public or nonpublic school, compliance with s. 402.3025 or  
 673 s. 1003.22 satisfies this requirement. A faith-based child care  
 674 provider exempt from licensure under s. 402.316 must meet or  
 675 exceed the requirements of s. 402.305, except for square footage  
 676 per child, as determined by an onsite inspection by an early  
 677 learning coalition. An informal child care provider or  
 678 registered family day care home must meet or exceed the  
 679 requirements of s. 402.313. A before-school or after-school  
 680 program must meet or exceed the requirements of s. 402.305(5),  
 681 (6), and (7).

682 g.h. The program must ensure that minimum standards for  
 683 child discipline practices are age-appropriate. Such standards  
 684 must provide that children not be subjected to discipline that  
 685 is severe, humiliating, or frightening or discipline that is  
 686 associated with food, rest, or toileting. Spanking or any other  
 687 form of physical punishment is prohibited.

688 2. Each early learning coalition must implement a  
 689 comprehensive program of school readiness services in accordance  
 690 with this chapter and the rules adopted by the office which  
 691 enhance the cognitive, social, and physical development of

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692 children to achieve the performance standards and outcome  
 693 measures. At a minimum, these programs must contain the  
 694 following system support service elements:

- 695 a. Developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to  
 696 enhance the age-appropriate progress of children in attaining  
 697 the performance standards adopted by the Office of Early  
 698 Learning under subparagraph (5) (d) 8. ~~(4) (d) 8.~~
- 699 b. A character development program to develop basic  
 700 values.
- 701 c. An age-appropriate screening of each child's  
 702 development and an appropriate referral process for children  
 703 with identified delays.
- 704 d. An age-appropriate preassessment and postassessment of  
 705 children as provided in subparagraph (5) (d) 10. ~~assessment~~  
 706 ~~administered to children when they enter a program and an age-~~  
 707 ~~appropriate assessment administered to children when they leave~~  
 708 ~~the program.~~
- 709 e. An appropriate staff-to-children ratio, pursuant to s.  
 710 402.305(4) or s. 402.302(8) or (11), as applicable, and as  
 711 verified pursuant to s. 402.311.
- 712 f. A healthy and safe environment pursuant to s.  
 713 401.305(5), (6), and (7), as applicable, and as verified  
 714 pursuant to s. 402.311.
- 715 g. A resource and referral network established under s.  
 716 411.0101 to assist parents in making an informed choice and a  
 717 regional Warm-Line under s. 411.01015.

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719 The Office of Early Learning and early learning coalitions shall  
 720 coordinate with the Child Care Services Program Office of the  
 721 Department of Children and Family Services to minimize  
 722 duplicating interagency activities pertaining to acquiring and  
 723 composing data for child care training and credentialing.

724 (d) Implementation.—

725 1. An early learning coalition may not implement the  
 726 school readiness program until the coalition's school readiness  
 727 plan is approved by the Office of Early Learning.

728 2. Each early learning coalition shall coordinate with one  
 729 another to implement a comprehensive program of school readiness  
 730 services which enhances the cognitive, social, physical, and  
 731 moral character of the children to achieve the performance  
 732 standards and outcome measures and which helps families achieve  
 733 economic self-sufficiency. Such program must contain, at a  
 734 minimum, the following elements:

735 a. Implement the school readiness program to meet the  
 736 requirements of this section and the system support services,  
 737 performance standards, and outcome measures adopted by the  
 738 Office of Early Learning.

739 b. Demonstrate how the program will ensure that each child  
 740 from birth through 5 years of age in a publicly funded school  
 741 readiness program receives scheduled activities and instruction  
 742 designed to enhance the age-appropriate progress of the children  
 743 in attaining the performance standards adopted by the department  
 744 under subparagraph (5) (d) 8. ~~(4) (d) 8.~~

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745 c. Ensure that the coalition has solicited and considered  
746 comments regarding the proposed school readiness plan from the  
747 local community.

748  
749 Before implementing the school readiness program, the early  
750 learning coalition must submit the plan to the office for  
751 approval. The office may approve the plan, reject the plan, or  
752 approve the plan with conditions. The office shall review school  
753 readiness plans at least every 2 years.

754 3. If the Office of Early Learning determines during the  
755 review of school readiness plans, or through monitoring and  
756 performance evaluations conducted under paragraph (5)(1) ~~(4)(1)~~,  
757 that an early learning coalition has not substantially  
758 implemented its plan, has not substantially met the performance  
759 standards and outcome measures adopted by the office, or has not  
760 effectively administered the school readiness program or  
761 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the office may  
762 dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract with a qualified  
763 entity to continue school readiness and prekindergarten services  
764 in the coalition's county or multicounty region until the office  
765 reestablishes the coalition and a new school readiness plan is  
766 approved in accordance with the rules adopted by the office.

767 4. The Office of Early Learning shall adopt rules  
768 establishing criteria for the approval of school readiness  
769 plans. The criteria must be consistent with the system support  
770 services, performance standards, and outcome measures adopted by  
771 the office and must require each approved plan to include the  
772 following minimum standards for the school readiness program:

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773           a. A community plan that addresses the needs of all  
 774 children and providers within the coalition's county or  
 775 multicounty region.

776           ~~b. A sliding fee scale establishing a copayment for  
 777 parents based upon their ability to pay, which is the same for  
 778 all program providers.~~

779           b.e. A choice of settings and locations in licensed,  
 780 registered, religious-exempt, or school-based programs to be  
 781 provided to parents.

782           ~~d. Specific eligibility priorities for children in  
 783 accordance with subsection (6).~~

784           c.e. Performance standards and outcome measures adopted by  
 785 the office.

786           ~~f. Payment rates adopted by the early learning coalitions  
 787 and approved by the office. Payment rates may not have the  
 788 effect of limiting parental choice or creating standards or  
 789 levels of services that have not been expressly established by  
 790 the Legislature, unless the creation of such standards or levels  
 791 of service, which must be uniform throughout the state, has been  
 792 approved by the Federal Government and result in the state being  
 793 eligible to receive additional federal funds available for early  
 794 learning on a statewide basis.~~

795           ~~g. Direct enhancement services for families and children.  
 796 System support and direct enhancement services shall be in  
 797 addition to payments for the placement of children in school  
 798 readiness programs. Direct enhancement services for families may  
 799 include parent training and involvement activities and  
 800 strategies to meet the needs of unique populations and local~~

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801 ~~eligibility priorities. Enhancement services for children may~~  
802 ~~include provider supports and professional development approved~~  
803 ~~in the plan by the Office of Early Learning.~~

804 d.h. The business organization of the early learning  
805 coalition, which must include the coalition's articles of  
806 incorporation and bylaws if the coalition is organized as a  
807 corporation. If the coalition is not organized as a corporation  
808 or other business entity, the plan must include the contract  
809 with a fiscal agent. An early learning coalition may contract  
810 with other coalitions to achieve efficiency in multicounty  
811 services, and these contracts may be part of the coalition's  
812 school readiness plan.

813 ~~i. The implementation of locally developed quality~~  
814 ~~programs in accordance with the requirements adopted by the~~  
815 ~~office under subparagraph (4)(d)5.~~

816  
817 The Office of Early Learning may request the Governor to apply  
818 for a waiver to allow the coalition to administer the Head Start  
819 Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness  
820 program.

821 5. Persons with an early childhood teaching certificate  
822 may provide support and supervision to other staff in the school  
823 readiness program.

824 6. An early learning coalition may not implement its  
825 school readiness plan until it submits the plan to and receives  
826 approval from the Office of Early Learning. Once the plan is  
827 approved, the plan and the services provided under the plan  
828 shall be controlled by the early learning coalition. The plan

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829 shall be reviewed and revised as necessary, but at least  
 830 biennially. An early learning coalition may not implement the  
 831 revisions until the coalition submits the revised plan to and  
 832 receives approval from the office. If the office rejects a  
 833 revised plan, the coalition must continue to operate under its  
 834 prior approved plan.

835 7. Section 125.901(2)(a)3. does not apply to school  
 836 readiness programs. The Office of Early Learning may apply to  
 837 the Governor and Cabinet for a waiver of, and the Governor and  
 838 Cabinet may waive, any of the provisions of ss. 411.223 and  
 839 1003.54, if the waiver is necessary for implementation of school  
 840 readiness programs.

841 8. Two or more early learning coalitions may join for  
 842 purposes of planning and implementing a school readiness  
 843 program.

844 (e) Requests for proposals; ~~payment schedule.~~

845 ~~1.~~ Each early learning coalition must comply with federal  
 846 ~~the procurement requirements and the expenditure requirements of~~  
 847 ~~procedures adopted by the Office of Early Learning, including,~~  
 848 ~~but not limited to, applying the procurement and expenditure~~  
 849 ~~procedures required by federal and state law and state rules for~~  
 850 ~~the expenditure of federal funds.~~

851 ~~2.~~ ~~Each early learning coalition shall adopt a payment~~  
 852 ~~schedule that encompasses all programs funded under this~~  
 853 ~~section. The payment schedule must take into consideration the~~  
 854 ~~prevailing market rate, must include the projected number of~~  
 855 ~~children to be served, and must be submitted for approval by the~~  
 856 ~~Office of Early Learning. Informal child care arrangements shall~~

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857 ~~be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted~~  
 858 ~~for a family day care home.~~

859 (f) Evaluation and annual report.—Each early learning  
 860 coalition shall conduct an evaluation of its implementation of  
 861 the school readiness program, including system support services,  
 862 performance standards, and outcome measures, and shall provide  
 863 an annual report and fiscal statement to the Office of Early  
 864 Learning. This report must also include an evaluation of the  
 865 effectiveness of its direct enhancement services and conform to  
 866 the content and format specifications adopted by the Office of  
 867 Early Learning. The Office of Early Learning must include an  
 868 analysis of the early learning coalitions' reports in the  
 869 office's annual report.

870 ~~(7) (6) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT.—The school~~  
 871 ~~readiness program is established for children from birth to the~~  
 872 ~~beginning of the school year for which a child is eligible for~~  
 873 ~~admission to kindergarten in a public school under s.~~  
 874 ~~1003.21(1)(a)2. or who are eligible for any federal subsidized~~  
 875 ~~child care program.~~

876 (a) Each early learning coalition shall give priority for  
 877 participation in the school readiness program as follows:

878 1. (a) Priority shall be given first to a child younger  
 879 than 13 years of age from a working family that includes ~~in~~  
 880 ~~which there is~~ an adult receiving temporary cash assistance who  
 881 is subject to federal work requirements under chapter 414.

882 2. (b) Priority shall be given next to an at-risk a child  
 883 younger than 9 years of age who is eligible for a school  
 884 ~~readiness program but who has not yet entered school, who is~~



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885 ~~served by the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of~~  
886 ~~Children and Family Services or a community-based lead agency~~  
887 ~~under chapter 39 or chapter 409, and for whom child care is~~  
888 ~~needed to minimize risk of further abuse, neglect, or~~  
889 ~~abandonment.~~

890 3. Priority shall be given next to:

891 a. A child younger than 6 years of age from a working  
892 family that is economically disadvantaged, including being a  
893 child of a working migratory family. However, the child ceases  
894 to be eligible if his or her family income exceeds 200 percent  
895 of the federal poverty level; or

896 b. A child who has special needs, is younger than 6 years  
897 of age, has been determined eligible as a student with  
898 disabilities, and has a current family support plan or  
899 individual education plan.

900 4. Priority shall be given next to an at-risk child who is  
901 at least 9 years of age, but younger than 13 years of age. An  
902 at-risk child whose sibling is enrolled in the school readiness  
903 program within an eligibility priority category listed in  
904 subparagraphs 1.-3. shall be given priority over other children  
905 who are eligible under this subparagraph.

906 5. Priority shall be given next to a child who is at least  
907 6 years of age, but younger than 13 years of age, and who is a  
908 sibling of a child enrolled in the school readiness program  
909 within the eligibility priority category listed in sub-  
910 paragraph 3.a.

911 6. Notwithstanding subparagraphs 1.-5., priority shall be  
912 given last to a child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility

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913 criteria in subparagraphs 1.-5. but who is also enrolled  
 914 concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the Voluntary  
 915 Prekindergarten Education Program.

916 (b) A school readiness provider may be paid only for  
 917 authorized hours of care provided for a child in the school  
 918 readiness program. A child enrolled in the Voluntary  
 919 Prekindergarten Education Program may receive care from the  
 920 school readiness program if the child is eligible according to  
 921 the eligibility priorities in paragraph (a).

922 (c) A coalition shall enroll all eligible children,  
 923 including those from its waiting list, according to the  
 924 eligibility priorities provided in paragraph (a).

925 (d) The parent of a child enrolled in the school readiness  
 926 program must notify the coalition or its designee within 10 days  
 927 after any change in employment, income, or family size. Upon  
 928 notification by the parent, the child's eligibility must be  
 929 reevaluated.

930 (e) A child whose eligibility priority category requires  
 931 the child to be from a working family ceases to be eligible for  
 932 the school readiness program if a parent with whom the child  
 933 resides does not reestablish employment within 30 days after  
 934 becoming unemployed.

935 (f) Eligibility for each child must be reevaluated  
 936 annually. Upon reevaluation, a child may not continue to receive  
 937 school readiness services if he or she has ceased to be eligible  
 938 under this subsection.

939 (g) If a coalition disenrolls children from the school  
 940 readiness program, the coalition must disenroll the children in

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941 reverse order of the eligibility priorities listed in paragraph  
 942 (a), beginning with children from families with the highest  
 943 family incomes. A notice of disenrollment must be sent to  
 944 parents and school readiness providers at least 2 weeks before  
 945 disenrollment to ensure adequate time for parents to arrange  
 946 alternative care for their children. However, an at-risk child  
 947 may not be disenrolled from the program without the written  
 948 approval of the Family Safety Program Office of the Department  
 949 of Children and Family Services or the community-based lead  
 950 agency.

951 (h)1. If a child is absent for 5 consecutive days without  
 952 contact from the parent, the school readiness provider shall  
 953 report the absences to the early learning coalition for a  
 954 determination of the need for continued care.

955 2. Notwithstanding s. 39.604, a school readiness provider,  
 956 regardless of whether the provider is licensed, shall comply  
 957 with the reporting requirements of the Rilya Wilson Act for each  
 958 at-risk child enrolled in the school readiness program,  
 959 regardless of the child's age or eligibility for protective  
 960 services.

961 ~~(c) Subsequent priority shall be given to a child who~~  
 962 ~~meets one or more of the following criteria:~~

963 ~~1. A child who is younger than the age of kindergarten~~  
 964 ~~eligibility and:~~

965 ~~a. Is at risk of welfare dependency, including an~~  
 966 ~~economically disadvantaged child, a child of a participant in~~  
 967 ~~the welfare transition program, a child of a migratory~~  
 968 ~~agricultural worker, or a child of a teen parent.~~

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969 ~~b. Is a member of a working family that is economically~~  
 970 ~~disadvantaged.~~

971 ~~e. For whom financial assistance is provided through the~~  
 972 ~~Relative Caregiver Program under s. 39.5085.~~

973 ~~2. A 3-year-old child or 4-year-old child who may not be~~  
 974 ~~economically disadvantaged but who has a disability; has been~~  
 975 ~~served in a specific part-time exceptional education program or~~  
 976 ~~a combination of part-time exceptional education programs with~~  
 977 ~~required special services, aids, or equipment; and was~~  
 978 ~~previously reported for funding part time under the Florida~~  
 979 ~~Education Finance Program as an exceptional student.~~

980 ~~3. An economically disadvantaged child, a child with a~~  
 981 ~~disability, or a child at risk of future school failure, from~~  
 982 ~~birth to 4 years of age, who is served at home through a home~~  
 983 ~~visitor program and an intensive parent education program.~~

984 ~~4. A child who meets federal and state eligibility~~  
 985 ~~requirements for the migrant preschool program but who is not~~  
 986 ~~economically disadvantaged.~~

987  
 988 ~~As used in this paragraph, the term "economically disadvantaged"~~  
 989 ~~means having a family income that does not exceed 150 percent of~~  
 990 ~~the federal poverty level. Notwithstanding any change in a~~  
 991 ~~family's economic status, but subject to additional family~~  
 992 ~~contributions in accordance with the sliding fee scale, a child~~  
 993 ~~who meets the eligibility requirements upon initial registration~~  
 994 ~~for the program remains eligible until the beginning of the~~  
 995 ~~school year for which the child is eligible for admission to~~  
 996 ~~kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.~~

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997 |        (8)~~(7)~~ PARENTAL CHOICE.—

998 |        (a) Parental choice of child care providers shall be  
999 | established, to the maximum extent practicable, in accordance  
1000 | with 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30.

1001 |        (b) As used in this subsection, the term "payment  
1002 | certificate" means a child care certificate as defined in 45  
1003 | C.F.R. s. 98.2.

1004 |        (c) The school readiness program shall, in accordance with  
1005 | 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a payment  
1006 | certificate that ensures, to the maximum extent possible,  
1007 | flexibility in the school readiness program and payment  
1008 | arrangements. The payment certificate must bear the names of the  
1009 | beneficiary and the program provider and, when redeemed, must  
1010 | bear the signatures of both the beneficiary and an authorized  
1011 | representative of the provider.

1012 |        (d) If it is determined that a provider has given any cash  
1013 | to the beneficiary in return for receiving a payment  
1014 | certificate, the early learning coalition or its fiscal agent  
1015 | shall refer the matter to the Department of Financial Services  
1016 | pursuant to s. 414.411 for investigation.

1017 |        (e) The office of the Chief Financial Officer shall  
1018 | establish an electronic transfer system for the disbursement of  
1019 | funds in accordance with this subsection. Each early learning  
1020 | coalition shall fully implement the electronic funds transfer  
1021 | system within 2 years after approval of the coalition's school  
1022 | readiness plan, unless a waiver is obtained from the Office of  
1023 | Early Learning.

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1024 (9)~~(8)~~ STANDARDS; OUTCOME MEASURES.—A program provider  
 1025 participating in the school readiness program must meet the  
 1026 performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the Office  
 1027 of Early Learning.

1028 (10)~~(9)~~ FUNDING; SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM.—

1029 (a) Funding for the school readiness program shall be  
 1030 allocated among the early learning coalitions in accordance with  
 1031 this section, s. 411.013, and the General Appropriations Act.

1032 ~~(a) It is the intent of this section to establish an~~  
 1033 ~~integrated and quality seamless service delivery system for all~~  
 1034 ~~publicly funded early childhood education and child care~~  
 1035 ~~programs operating in this state.~~

1036 (b)1. The Office of Early Learning shall administer school  
 1037 readiness funds, ~~plans, and policies~~ and shall prepare and  
 1038 submit a unified budget request for the school readiness system  
 1039 in accordance with chapter 216.

1040 2. All instructions to early learning coalitions for  
 1041 administering this section shall emanate from the Office of  
 1042 Early Learning in accordance with the policies of the  
 1043 Legislature.

1044 ~~(c) The Office of Early Learning, subject to legislative~~  
 1045 ~~notice and review under s. 216.177, shall establish a formula~~  
 1046 ~~for the allocation of all state and federal school readiness~~  
 1047 ~~funds provided for children participating in the school~~  
 1048 ~~readiness program, whether served by a public or private~~  
 1049 ~~provider, based upon equity for each county. The allocation~~  
 1050 ~~formula must be submitted to the Governor, the chair of the~~  
 1051 ~~Senate Ways and Means Committee or its successor, and the chair~~

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1052 ~~of the House of Representatives Fiscal Council or its successor~~  
 1053 ~~no later than January 1 of each year. If the Legislature~~  
 1054 ~~specifies changes to the allocation formula, the Office of Early~~  
 1055 ~~Learning shall allocate funds as specified in the General~~  
 1056 ~~Appropriations Act.~~

1057 (c) ~~(d)~~ All state, federal, and required local maintenance-  
 1058 of-effort or matching funds provided to an early learning  
 1059 coalition for purposes of this section shall be used for  
 1060 implementation of its approved school readiness plan, including  
 1061 the hiring of staff to effectively operate the coalition's  
 1062 school readiness program. ~~As part of plan approval and periodic~~  
 1063 ~~plan review, the Office of Early Learning shall require that~~  
 1064 ~~administrative~~

1065 (d) Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for the  
 1066 efficient and effective administration of the school readiness  
 1067 program. However, no more than 4 percent of the funds described  
 1068 in paragraph (c) may be used for administrative costs as  
 1069 described in subparagraph 1., and, except as otherwise specified  
 1070 in the General Appropriations Act, no more than 18 percent of  
 1071 the funds described in paragraph (c) may be used for any  
 1072 combination of the following administrative costs, quality  
 1073 activities, and nondirect services:

1074 1. Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.  
 1075 98.52.

1076 2. Activities to improve the quality of child care as  
 1077 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.51, which shall be limited to the  
 1078 following:

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1079 a. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and  
 1080 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related  
 1081 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents  
 1082 and the public regarding participation in the school readiness  
 1083 program.

1084 b. Awarding grants to school readiness providers to assist  
 1085 them in meeting applicable state requirements for child care  
 1086 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate  
 1087 curricula and related classroom resources that support  
 1088 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing  
 1089 professional development.

1090 c. Providing training and technical assistance for school  
 1091 readiness providers, staff, and parents on child performance  
 1092 standards, child screenings, child assessments, developmentally  
 1093 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child  
 1094 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and  
 1095 safety, nutrition, first aid, the recognition of communicable  
 1096 diseases, and child abuse detection and prevention.

1097 d. Providing from among the funds provided for the  
 1098 activities described in sub-subparagraphs a.-c. adequate funding  
 1099 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal  
 1100 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for  
 1101 infant and toddler care.

1102 e. Monitoring providers using the standardized methodology  
 1103 adopted under subparagraph (5) (d)12. to improve compliance with  
 1104 state and federal regulations and law pursuant to the  
 1105 requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted under  
 1106 subparagraph (5) (d)11.



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1107 f. Assisting the provider in implementing a preassessment  
 1108 and postassessment approved by the Office of Early Learning.

1109 g. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and  
 1110 parents related to school readiness children, including  
 1111 providing developmental and health screenings to school  
 1112 readiness children.

1113 3. Nondirect services as described in 63 Fed. Reg. 39962-  
 1114 39963 (July 24, 1998) and applicable Office of Management and  
 1115 Budget instructions required to administer the school readiness  
 1116 program. As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect  
 1117 services" does not include payments to school readiness  
 1118 providers for direct services provided to children who are  
 1119 eligible under paragraph (7) (a), administrative costs as  
 1120 described in subparagraph 1., or quality activities as described  
 1121 in subparagraph 2. plan, but total administrative expenditures  
 1122 must not exceed 5 percent unless specifically waived by the  
 1123 Office of Early Learning. The Office of Early Learning shall  
 1124 annually report to the Legislature any problems relating to  
 1125 administrative costs.

1126 (e)1. A sliding fee scale percentage shall be provided in  
 1127 the General Appropriations Act, which shall be the same for all  
 1128 school readiness providers. A parent's copayment for the school  
 1129 readiness program shall be determined by multiplying the sliding  
 1130 fee scale percentage by the family income and adjusting for  
 1131 family size.

1132 2. Each early learning coalition shall implement the  
 1133 sliding fee scale as provided in the General Appropriations Act.  
 1134 A coalition may, on a case-by-case basis, waive the copayment

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1135 for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the copayment for a  
 1136 child whose family experiences a natural disaster or emergency  
 1137 situation such as a household fire or burglary.

1138 (f)1. An adjusted payment rate percentage shall be  
 1139 provided in the General Appropriations Act, which shall be used  
 1140 to determine annual payment rates for school readiness  
 1141 providers. The annual payment rates for each type of school  
 1142 readiness provider and level of care shall be calculated by:

1143 a. Multiplying the prevailing market rate for the  
 1144 respective type of school readiness provider and level of care  
 1145 by the adjusted payment rate percentage;

1146 b. Adjusting the product of sub-subparagraph a. by the  
 1147 district cost differential as provided in s. 1011.62(2) for the  
 1148 county in which the school readiness provider is located; and

1149 c. If the school readiness provider has the Gold Seal  
 1150 Quality Care designation under s. 402.281, multiplying the  
 1151 product of sub-subparagraph b. by the Gold Seal premium  
 1152 percentage provided in the General Appropriations Act.

1153 2. A school readiness provider's total payment for a child  
 1154 shall be equal to the payment rate calculated under subparagraph  
 1155 1. less the amount of the parent's copayment as determined under  
 1156 paragraph (e). However, payments made to the school readiness  
 1157 provider may not exceed the provider's charges to the general  
 1158 public for the same services.

1159 (g) The Office of Early Learning may increase or decrease  
 1160 the adjusted payment rate percentage for a specific geographic  
 1161 area in order to ensure that care levels are available  
 1162 throughout the state. Any increase in an adjusted payment rate

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1163 percentage must be funded through the current year's  
 1164 appropriation.

1165 ~~(e) The Office of Early Learning shall annually~~  
 1166 ~~distribute, to a maximum extent practicable, all eligible funds~~  
 1167 ~~provided under this section as block grants to the early~~  
 1168 ~~learning coalitions in accordance with the terms and conditions~~  
 1169 ~~specified by the office.~~

1170 (h) ~~(f)~~ State funds appropriated for the school readiness  
 1171 program may not be used for the construction of new facilities  
 1172 or the purchase of buses.

1173 (i) ~~(g)~~ All cost savings and all revenues received through  
 1174 a mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to help fund each  
 1175 early learning coalition's school readiness program.

1176 ~~(10) CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.—If a conflict exists between~~  
 1177 ~~this section and federal requirements, the federal requirements~~  
 1178 ~~control.~~

1179 (11) SUBSTITUTE INSTRUCTORS.—Each school district shall  
 1180 make a list of all individuals currently eligible to act as a  
 1181 substitute teacher within the county pursuant to the rules  
 1182 adopted by the school district pursuant to s. 1012.35 available  
 1183 to an early learning coalition serving students within the  
 1184 school district. Child care facilities, as defined by s.  
 1185 402.302, may employ individuals listed as substitute instructors  
 1186 for the purpose of offering the school readiness program, the  
 1187 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, and all other  
 1188 legally operating child care programs.

1189 (12) INVESTIGATIONS OF FRAUD OR OVERPAYMENT; PENALTIES.—

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1190           (a) As used in this subsection, the term "fraud" means an  
 1191 intentional deception or misrepresentation made by a person with  
 1192 knowledge that the deception or misrepresentation may result in  
 1193 unauthorized benefit to that person or another person. The term  
 1194 includes any act that constitutes fraud under applicable federal  
 1195 or state law.

1196           (b) To recover state, federal, and local matching funds,  
 1197 the inspector general of the Office of Early Learning shall  
 1198 investigate coalitions, recipients, and providers of the school  
 1199 readiness program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
 1200 Program to determine possible fraud or overpayment. If by its  
 1201 own inquiries, or as a result of a complaint, the office has  
 1202 reason to believe that a person has engaged in, or is engaging  
 1203 in, a fraudulent act, it shall investigate and determine whether  
 1204 any overpayment has occurred due to the fraudulent act. During  
 1205 the investigation, the office may examine all records, including  
 1206 electronic benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all  
 1207 persons who may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental  
 1208 to the disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits  
 1209 authorizations to recipients.

1210           (c) If the inspector general determines that an  
 1211 overpayment has occurred due to a fraudulent act, the parent or  
 1212 provider is responsible for repayment and restitution of any  
 1213 costs associated with the fraud, and the office shall pursue  
 1214 collection through any legal means. A provider or parent may not  
 1215 participate in the program until the repayment is made in full.  
 1216 Any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider

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1217 that is ineligible to participate under this subsection will not  
 1218 be permitted to participate until repayment is made in full.

1219 (d) Based on the results of the investigation, the  
 1220 inspector general may, in his or her discretion, refer the  
 1221 investigation to the Department of Law Enforcement for criminal  
 1222 prosecution, seek civil enforcement, or refer the matter to the  
 1223 applicable coalition. Any suspected criminal violation  
 1224 identified by the inspector general must be referred to the  
 1225 Department of Legal Affairs for investigation.

1226 (e) If a school readiness provider, after investigation  
 1227 and adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction, is  
 1228 convicted of fraudulently misrepresenting enrollment or  
 1229 attendance related to the school readiness program or the  
 1230 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the coalition shall  
 1231 permanently refrain from contracting with, or using the services  
 1232 of, that provider. In addition, the coalition shall permanently  
 1233 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, any  
 1234 provider that shares an officer or director with a provider that  
 1235 is convicted of fraudulently misrepresenting enrollment or  
 1236 attendance related to the school readiness program or the  
 1237 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

1238 (f) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise  
 1239 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of the investigation  
 1240 may be reported by the Office of Early Learning to the  
 1241 appropriate legislative committees, the Department of Education,  
 1242 the Department of Children and Family Services, and such other  
 1243 persons as the office deems appropriate.

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1244 (g) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in  
 1245 this subsection is subject to the penalties provided in s.  
 1246 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

1247 Section 2. Effective upon this act becoming a law, section  
 1248 411.013, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1249 411.013 School Readiness Allocation Conference; allocation  
 1250 formula for school readiness program funds.—

1251 (1) There is created the School Readiness Allocation  
 1252 Conference. Conference principals shall include professional  
 1253 staff of the Office of Early Learning, the Executive Office of  
 1254 the Governor, and the appropriations committees of the Senate  
 1255 and House of Representatives.

1256 (2) (a) By May 31, 2012, and by January 1 of each year  
 1257 thereafter, the Office of Early Learning shall submit to the  
 1258 School Readiness Allocation Conference a recommended formula for  
 1259 the allocation among the early learning coalitions of the school  
 1260 readiness program funds provided in the General Appropriations  
 1261 Act.

1262 (b) Before any distribution of school readiness program  
 1263 funds, the School Readiness Allocation Conference shall meet to  
 1264 review the recommended allocation formula submitted by the  
 1265 Office of Early Learning. The conference principals shall  
 1266 discuss and agree to all conventions and methods of computation  
 1267 used to calculate the allocation formula for the fiscal year for  
 1268 which the appropriation is made. These conventions and  
 1269 calculation methods shall remain in effect until further  
 1270 agreements are reached in subsequent conferences called by any  
 1271 conference principal for that purpose.

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1272       (c) Each fiscal quarter, the Office of Early Learning  
 1273 shall recalculate the allocations for the early learning  
 1274 coalitions using the agreed methodology. The conference  
 1275 principals, upon the request of any conference principal, shall  
 1276 meet to review the quarterly calculation made by the Office of  
 1277 Early Learning. Before each recalculation of the allocation  
 1278 formula, the Office of Early Learning shall provide the  
 1279 conference principals with all data necessary to replicate the  
 1280 allocation precisely. This data must include a matrix by  
 1281 provider type of all eligible child count revisions made by the  
 1282 Office of Early Learning as part of its administration of the  
 1283 school readiness programs.

1284       (3) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 411.01(10) (e)  
 1285 and (f) which require that the adjusted payment rate percentage,  
 1286 sliding fee scale percentage, parent copayments, and Gold Seal  
 1287 premium percentage be provided in the General Appropriations  
 1288 Act, and for the 2012-2013 fiscal year only, the Office of Early  
 1289 Learning shall, by May 31, 2012, submit recommendations to the  
 1290 School Readiness Allocation Conference for the adjusted payment  
 1291 rate percentage, sliding fee scale percentage, parent  
 1292 copayments, and Gold Seal premium percentage.

1293       (b) The Office of Early Learning shall submit  
 1294 recommendations to the School Readiness Allocation Conference  
 1295 with options for a 3-year phase in of the revised allocation  
 1296 formula. As part of the 3-year phase in, the Office of Early  
 1297 Learning shall transition the Gold Seal premium percentage to 10  
 1298 percent. For the first year of the transition, the Gold Seal  
 1299 premium percentage shall be at least 10 percent but not more

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1300 than 18 percent. Once the 3-year phase in of the allocation  
 1301 formula is complete, the Office of Early Learning shall submit  
 1302 to the conference any recommended revisions to the allocation  
 1303 formula with recommended factors by January 1 of each year.

1304 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (8) of section  
 1305 216.136, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1306 216.136 Consensus estimating conferences; duties and  
 1307 principals.—

1308 (8) EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS ESTIMATING CONFERENCE.—

1309 (a) The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference  
 1310 shall develop estimates and forecasts of the unduplicated count  
 1311 of children eligible for school readiness programs in accordance  
 1312 with the standards of eligibility established in s. 411.01(7)  
 1313 ~~411.01(6)~~, and of children eligible for the Voluntary  
 1314 Prekindergarten Education Program in accordance with s.  
 1315 1002.53(2), as the conference determines are needed to support  
 1316 the state planning, budgeting, and appropriations processes.

1317 Section 4. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
 1318 (3) of section 411.0101, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1319 411.0101 Child care and early childhood resource and  
 1320 referral.—

1321 (1) As a part of the school readiness programs, the Office  
 1322 of Early Learning shall establish a statewide child care  
 1323 resource and referral network that is unbiased and provides  
 1324 referrals to families for child care. Preference shall be given  
 1325 to using the already established early learning coalitions as  
 1326 the child care resource and referral agencies. If an early  
 1327 learning coalition cannot comply with the requirements to offer



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1328 the resource information component or does not want to offer  
 1329 that service, the early learning coalition shall select the  
 1330 resource and referral agency for its county or multicounty  
 1331 region based upon a request for proposal pursuant to s.  
 1332 411.01(6)(e) ~~411.01(5)(e)1~~.

1333 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall  
 1334 provide the following services:

1335 (a) Identification of existing public and private child  
 1336 care and early childhood education services, including child  
 1337 care services by public and private employers, and the  
 1338 development of a resource file of those services through the  
 1339 single statewide information system developed by the Office of  
 1340 Early Learning under s. 411.01(6)(c)1.e. ~~411.01(5)(e)1.e.~~ These  
 1341 services may include family day care, public and private child  
 1342 care programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program,  
 1343 Head Start, the school readiness program, special education  
 1344 programs for prekindergarten children with disabilities,  
 1345 services for children with developmental disabilities, full-time  
 1346 and part-time programs, before-school and after-school programs,  
 1347 vacation care programs, parent education, the Temporary Cash  
 1348 Assistance Program, and related family support services. The  
 1349 resource file shall include, but not be limited to:

- 1350 1. Type of program.
- 1351 2. Hours of service.
- 1352 3. Ages of children served.
- 1353 4. Number of children served.
- 1354 5. Significant program information.
- 1355 6. Fees and eligibility for services.

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1356           7. Availability of transportation.  
 1357           Section 5. Section 411.01013, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 1358 to read:  
 1359           411.01013 Prevailing market rate schedule.—  
 1360           (1) As used in this section, the terms ~~term~~:  
 1361           ~~(a) "market rate" and means the price that a child care~~  
 1362 ~~provider charges for daily, weekly, or monthly child care~~  
 1363 ~~services.~~  
 1364           ~~(b) "prevailing market rate" have the same meanings as~~  
 1365 ~~provided in s. 411.01 means the annually determined 75th~~  
 1366 ~~percentile of a reasonable frequency distribution of the market~~  
 1367 ~~rate in a predetermined geographic market at which child care~~  
 1368 ~~providers charge a person for child care services.~~  
 1369           (2) The Office of Early Learning shall establish  
 1370 ~~procedures for the adoption of a prevailing market rate~~  
 1371 ~~schedule. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by-~~  
 1372 ~~county rates:~~  
 1373           ~~(a) At the prevailing market rate, plus the maximum rate,~~  
 1374 ~~for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality Care~~  
 1375 ~~designation under s. 402.281.~~  
 1376           ~~(b) At the prevailing market rate for child care providers~~  
 1377 ~~that do not hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation.~~  
 1378           ~~(3) The prevailing market rate schedule, at a minimum,~~  
 1379 ~~must:~~  
 1380           (a) Differentiate rates by type, including, but not  
 1381 limited to, ~~a child care provider that holds a Gold Seal Quality~~  
 1382 ~~Care designation under s. 402.281, a child care facility~~  
 1383 licensed under s. 402.305, a public or nonpublic school exempt

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1384 from licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care  
 1385 facility exempt from licensure under s. 402.316 ~~that does not~~  
 1386 ~~hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation~~, a large family child  
 1387 care home licensed under s. 402.3131, or a family day care home  
 1388 licensed or registered under s. 402.313.

1389 (b) Differentiate rates by the type of child care services  
 1390 provided for ~~children with special needs or risk categories~~,  
 1391 infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and school-age  
 1392 children.

1393 (c) Differentiate rates between full-time and part-time  
 1394 child care services.

1395 ~~(d) Consider discounted rates for child care services for~~  
 1396 ~~multiple children in a single family.~~

1397 (3)~~(4)~~ The prevailing market rate schedule must be based  
 1398 exclusively on the prices charged for child care services. If a  
 1399 conflict exists between this subsection and federal  
 1400 requirements, the federal requirements shall control.

1401 (4)~~(5)~~ Each child care and early childhood education  
 1402 provider that receives school readiness funds must submit its  
 1403 market rate by August 1 of each year to the Office of Early  
 1404 Learning for inclusion in the calculation of the prevailing  
 1405 ~~market rate shall be considered by an early learning coalition~~  
 1406 ~~in the adoption of a payment schedule in accordance with s.~~  
 1407 ~~411.01(5)(c)2.~~

1408 (5)~~(6)~~ The Office of Early Learning may contract with one  
 1409 or more qualified entities to administer this section and  
 1410 provide support and technical assistance for child care  
 1411 providers.

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1412            (6) ~~(7)~~ The Office of Early Learning may adopt rules  
 1413 pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 for establishing  
 1414 procedures for the collection of child care providers' market  
 1415 rate, the calculation of a reasonable frequency distribution of  
 1416 the market rate, and the publication of a prevailing market rate  
 1417 schedule.

1418            Section 6. Section 411.0106, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 1419 to read:

1420            411.0106 Infants and toddlers in state-funded education  
 1421 and care programs; brain development activities.—Each state-  
 1422 funded education and care program for children from birth to 5  
 1423 years of age must provide activities to foster brain development  
 1424 in infants and toddlers. A program must provide an environment  
 1425 that helps children attain the performance standards adopted by  
 1426 the Office of Early Learning under s. 411.01(5)(d)8.

1427 ~~411.01(4)(d)8.~~ and must be rich in language and music and filled  
 1428 with objects of various colors, shapes, textures, and sizes to  
 1429 stimulate visual, tactile, auditory, and linguistic senses in  
 1430 the children and must include classical music and at least 30  
 1431 minutes of reading to the children each day. A program may be  
 1432 offered through an existing early childhood program such as  
 1433 Healthy Start, the Title I program, the school readiness  
 1434 program, the Head Start program, or a private child care  
 1435 program. A program must provide training for the infants' and  
 1436 toddlers' parents including direct dialogue and interaction  
 1437 between teachers and parents demonstrating the urgency of brain  
 1438 development in the first year of a child's life. Family day care

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1439 centers are encouraged, but not required, to comply with this  
 1440 section.

1441 Section 7. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
 1442 445.023, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1443 445.023 Program for dependent care for families with  
 1444 children with special needs.—

1445 (1) There is created the program for dependent care for  
 1446 families with children with special needs. This program is  
 1447 intended to provide assistance to families with children who  
 1448 meet the following requirements:

1449 (c) The family meets the income guidelines established  
 1450 under s. 411.01(7) ~~411.01(6)~~, notwithstanding any financial  
 1451 eligibility criteria to the contrary in s. 414.075, s. 414.085,  
 1452 or s. 414.095.

1453 Section 8. Notwithstanding the changes made by this act to  
 1454 the eligibility priorities for the school readiness program in  
 1455 s. 411.01, Florida Statutes, an early learning coalition may not  
 1456 disenroll a child who, upon the effective date of this act, is  
 1457 enrolled in the school readiness program and receiving services  
 1458 under the eligibility priorities in s. 411.01(6), Florida  
 1459 Statutes 2011, until the child ceases to be eligible under those  
 1460 priorities. An early learning coalition shall enroll all  
 1461 eligible children, including those from its waiting list, in  
 1462 accordance with the changes made by this act to the eligibility  
 1463 priorities in s. 411.01, Florida Statutes.

1464 Section 9. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
 1465 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon

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1466 | this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
1467 | 2012.