

Tab 1	SB 182 by Jones (CO-INTRODUCERS) Yarborough; Similar to CS/H 00157 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program					
779178	D	S	RCS	ED, Jones	Delete everything after	02/11 11:40 AM

Tab 2	SB 1318 by Rodriguez; Identical to H 06025 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program					
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Tab 3	CS/SB 1690 by CF, Calatayud; Similar to CS/CS/H 00765 Child Care and Early Learning Services					
663670	A	S	RCS	ED, Calatayud	Delete L.547 - 647:	02/11 11:40 AM

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

EDUCATION PRE-K - 12
Senator Simon, Chair
Senator Calatayud, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

TIME: 3:00—5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building

MEMBERS: Senator Simon, Chair; Senator Calatayud, Vice Chair; Senators Berman, Burgess, Davis, Gaetz, Osgood, and Yarborough

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 182 Jones (Similar CS/H 157)	School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program; Establishing the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program within the Department of Education; providing for the award of stipends for classroom teacher mentorship, subject to appropriation; specifying program requirements relating to contracts, standards, mentor requirements, and meetings, etc. ED 02/10/2026 Fav/CS AED FP	Fav/CS Yeas 8 Nays 0
2	SB 1318 Rodriguez (Identical H 6025)	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program; Removing language requiring certain program funds to revert to the state, etc. ED 02/10/2026 Favorable AED FP	Favorable Yeas 8 Nays 0
3	CS/SB 1690 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs / Calatayud (Similar CS/CS/H 765)	Child Care and Early Learning Services; Revising the information on child care required to be disseminated electronically to the community; deleting the requirement that family child care homes and large family child care homes, respectively, provide specified information to parents each year; requiring that certain child care facilities exempt from licensure requirements meet certain minimum requirements; prohibiting residential property insurance policies from providing coverage for liability for claims arising out of, or in connection with, the operations of large family child care homes; establishing the Florida Endowment for Early Learning Foundation within a Department of Education direct-support organization for a specified purpose, etc. CF 02/03/2026 Fav/CS ED 02/10/2026 Fav/CS AP	Fav/CS Yeas 8 Nays 0

Other Related Meeting Documents

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: CS/SB 182

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K - 12 Committee and Senator Jones

SUBJECT: School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program

DATE: February 11, 2026 **REVISED:** _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	ED	Fav/CS
2.			AED	
3.			FP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 182 establishes the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program within the Department of Education (DOE) to improve teacher effectiveness and student outcomes in Florida’s public schools. Subject to appropriation, the bill authorizes school districts, charter schools, and charter management organizations to place retired or current classroom teachers as mentors in schools earning a grade of “D” or “F”, to support new classroom teachers, teachers rated as needs improvement, developing, or unsatisfactory on the prior year’s performance evaluation, and teachers identified by a school administrator as struggling with classroom behavior management.

The bill establishes eligibility requirements for teacher mentors, including a minimum of three years of teaching experience and a highly effective rating on the most recent performance evaluation. Mentors may work with multiple classroom teachers and may receive a stipend of up to \$3,000.

The bill requires the DOE to establish program standards and a standard mentor-mentee contract outlining responsibilities and program goals. The bill authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the program.

The bill also amends the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to authorize the use of Educational Enrichment Allocation funds to support the program.

There may be a fiscal impact on school districts that elect to establish this program. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Teacher Mentorship and Induction Programs

Professional Learning Certification Programs

Professional learning certification programs must include a teacher mentorship and induction component.¹ Such programs are cohesive, competency-based professional preparation certification programs offered by school districts, charter schools, and charter management organizations, through which instructional staff can demonstrate mastery of professional preparation and education competence requirements to earn a professional educator certificate.² In addition to completing the district program, candidates must demonstrate mastery of general knowledge³ and subject area knowledge.⁴ Professional learning certification programs may be developed by the DOE or by a school district, charter school, or charter management organization and approved by the DOE.⁵

The teacher mentorship and induction component must, at a minimum, provide routine opportunities for mentoring and induction activities, including:⁶

- Ongoing professional learning⁷ targeted to a teacher's needs;
- Opportunities for a teacher to observe other teachers;
- Co-teaching experiences; and
- Reflection and follow-up discussions.

Mentorship and induction activities must be provided to an applicant during the applicant's first year in the program and may continue until the applicant attains his or her professional certificate.⁸

To serve as a teacher mentor in a professional learning certification program, a mentor:⁹

- Must hold a valid professional certificate;
- Must have at least 3 years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12;

¹ Section 1012.56(8)(a)1., F.S.

² Section 1012.56(8)(a), F.S.; Florida Department of Education, *Professional Learning Certification Programs*, <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/preparation/plcp.html> (last visited Jan. 30, 2026). Participants must hold a state-issued temporary certificate. See s. 1012.56(8)(a), F.S.

³ See Florida Department of Education, *General Knowledge*, <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/general-cert-requirements/general-knowledge.html> (last visited Feb. 5, 2026).

⁴ See Florida Department of Education, *Subject Area Knowledge*, <https://www.fldoe.org/teaching/certification/general-cert-requirements/subject-area-knowledge.html> (last visited Feb. 5, 2026).

⁵ Section 1012.56(8)(a) and (c), F.S.; See Rule 6A-5.066, F.A.C.

⁶ Section 1012.56(8)(a)1., F.S.

⁷ See s. 1012.98, F.S. Professional learning must meet the criteria established in s. 1012.98(3), F.S. See s. 1012.56(8)(a)3., F.S.

⁸ Section 1012.56(8)(a)1., F.S.

⁹ *Id.*

- Must have completed training in clinical supervision and participate in ongoing mentor training provided through the coordinated system of professional learning;
- Must have earned an effective or highly effective rating on the prior year’s performance evaluation; and
- May be a peer evaluator under the district’s evaluation system.

Teacher Apprenticeship Program

In 2023, the Legislature created the Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP) as an alternative pathway for an individual to enter the teaching profession.¹⁰ As a condition of participating in the TAP, an apprentice teacher must be appointed by the district school board as an education paraprofessional and must commit to spending the first two years in the classroom of a mentor teacher using team teaching strategies as specified in law¹¹ and fulfilling the on-the-job training component of the registered apprenticeship and its associated standards.¹²

A teacher who serves as a mentor to an apprentice teacher in the TAP must:¹³

- Have at least 5 years of teaching experience in this state.
- Be rated as highly effective in the three most recent value-added model (VAM) scores or on the three most recent available performance evaluations if the teacher does not generate a state VAM score.
- Satisfy any other requirements established by the DOE.

Other Mentorship and Induction Supports

A person issued a temporary certificate must be assigned a teacher mentor for at least two school years after commencing employment. Each teacher mentor must hold a valid professional certificate, have earned at least three years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12, and have earned an effective or highly effective rating on the prior year’s performance evaluation.¹⁴

As part of statewide efforts to recruit and retain qualified teachers, school boards are required to adopt policies relating to mentors and support for first-time teachers, which may include guidelines issued by the DOE.¹⁵

The DOE administers professional learning programs with mentoring components to support educators’ development as leaders and mentors, including the Florida Teacher Lead Network¹⁶

¹⁰ Ch. 2023-38, s. 6, Laws of Fla., *codified at* s. 1012.555, F.S.; *see also* Rule 6A-5.067, F.A.C.

¹¹ “Team teaching” or “co-teaching” means two or more teachers are assigned to a group of students and each teacher is responsible for all of the students during the entire class period. Section 1003.03(5)(c), F.S.

¹² Section 1012.555(2)(c) and (d), F.S.

¹³ Section 1012.555(3), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1012.56(7)(e), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 1012.05(3)(a), F.S.

¹⁶ Florida Department of Education, *Florida Teacher Lead Network*, <https://www.floridateacherslead.org/aboutftln> (last visited Feb. 5, 2026).

and the High Impact Teacher Corps,¹⁷ which is reserved for exceptional educators working at low-performing schools.

Educational Enrichment Allocation

The educational enrichment allocation is added to the base funding provided to districts through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). This allocation helps school districts provide educational enrichment activities and services that support and improve students' academic achievement from kindergarten through grade 12. Activities and services may be provided in any manner and at any time, during or beyond the regular 180-day term, in the manner the school district identifies as the most effective and efficient way to best help the student progress from grade to grade and graduate from high school.¹⁸

An additional supplement of \$500 per full-time equivalent student, or as provided in the General Appropriations Act, is allocated to district-managed turnaround schools,¹⁹ schools that earn three consecutive grades below a “C,” and schools that have improved to a “C” and are no longer in turnaround status²⁰ to implement intervention and support strategies.²¹ Services may include tutorial and after-school programs, student counseling, nutrition education, parental counseling, and an extended school day and year. Services may also include models that develop a culture that encourages students to complete high school and attend college or career training, sets high academic expectations, and inspires character development.²² A school district may partner with a nonprofit organization to implement an integrated student support service model that provides students and families with access to wrap-around services, including, but not limited to, health services, after-school programs, drug prevention programs, college and career readiness programs, and food and clothing banks.²³

For Fiscal Year 2025-26, the educational enrichment allocation is \$837.4 million.²⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 182 creates s. 1012.988, F.S., to establish the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program within the Department of Education (DOE) to increase the effectiveness and involvement of classroom teachers and improve student achievement, classroom management, and excellence in the state’s public schools.

¹⁷ Florida Department of Education, *High Impact Teacher Corps*, <https://www.floridateacherslead.org/high-impact-teacher-corps> (last visited Feb. 5, 2026).

¹⁸ Section 1011.62(7), F.S. In 2023, the Supplemental Academic Instruction and Turnaround Supplemental Services allocation were combined and renamed the Educational Enrichment Allocation.

¹⁹ See s. 1008.33(4)(a), F.S.

²⁰ See s. 1008.33(4)(c), F.S.

²¹ Section 1011.62(7)(b), F.S.

²² Section 1011.62(7)(b)2., F.S.

²³ Section 1011.62(7)(b)3., F.S.

²⁴ Specific Appropriations 5 and 88, s. 2, ch. 2025-198, Laws of Fla. Florida Department of Education, Office of Funding and Financial Reporting, School Business Services, Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), *Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Third Calculation* (January 30, 2026), at 29, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/file/7507/25-26FEFP3rdCalc.pdf>.

The bill authorizes school districts, charter schools, and charter management organizations to place retired or current classroom teachers in schools earning a grade of “D” or “F” to act as teacher mentors to support new classroom teachers; classroom teachers rated as needs improvement, developing, or unsatisfactory on the prior year’s performance evaluation; or classroom teachers identified by the school administrator as struggling with classroom behavior management.

The bill requires mentors to have at least three years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12 and must have earned a highly effective rating on the most recent performance evaluation. The bill authorizes teacher mentors to work with multiple classroom teachers and allows a teacher mentor to receive a stipend of up to \$3,000.

The bill requires the DOE to establish program standards and a standard contract for the teacher mentor and mentee that outlines each person’s responsibilities and establishes the program's framework and goals.

The bill requires that each teacher mentor:

- Not have an official management relationship with his or her mentee..
- Provide direction, advice, and a neutral sounding board to his or her mentee.
- Maintain confidentiality, unless prohibited by law.
- Have no personal agenda other than assisting his or her mentee in developing and reaching the mentee’s goals.
- Help his or her mentee in developing skills and expertise, including by drawing upon the mentor’s own personal experiences.

The bill authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the program.

The bill amends s. 1011.62, F.S., to authorize the use of Educational Enrichment Allocation funds under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) to support the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

There may be a fiscal impact on school districts that elect to establish this program. The bill allows funds to be used from the educational enrichment allocation in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and, if used, will reduce the funds available to school districts for other purposes.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 1012.988 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Pre-K – 12 on February 3, 2026:

The committee substitute retains the program title and general purpose while removing and replacing provisions relating to mentor stipends, program structure, and implementation requirements. Specifically, the committee substitute:

- Authorizes school districts, charter schools, and charter management organizations to place retired or current classroom teachers as mentors, but specifies placement in schools earning a grade of “D” or “F”;

- Maintains from the bill the purpose for mentors to support new classroom teachers, teachers rated as needs improvement, developing, or unsatisfactory, and teachers identified by a school administrator as struggling with classroom behavior management;
- Establishes eligibility requirements for mentors, including a minimum of three years of teaching experience and a most recent performance evaluation rating of highly effective;
- Authorizes mentors to work with multiple classroom teachers and to receive a stipend of up to \$3,000, rather than \$2,000;
- Directs the Department of Education to establish program standards and a standard mentor–mentee contract outlining responsibilities and program goals, without requiring the use of the University College London Mentoring Handbook.
- Removes prescriptive statutory requirements relating to program duration, meeting frequency, and session content; and
- Authorizes the use of Educational Enrichment Allocation funds under the Florida Education Finance Program to support the program.

B. Amendments:

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/11/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K - 12 (Jones) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Section 1012.988, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1012.988 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program.—

(1) The School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program is
established within the Department of Education. The purpose of
the program is to increase the effectiveness and involvement of



779178

11 classroom teachers and improve student achievement, classroom
12 management, and excellence in the state's public schools.

13 (2) (a) School districts and charter schools may place
14 retired classroom teachers or current classroom teachers in
15 schools earning a grade of "D" or "F" to act as teacher mentors
16 to:

17 1. New classroom teachers;

18 2. Classroom teachers who are rated as needs improvement,
19 developing, or unsatisfactory on the prior year's performance
20 evaluation under s. 1012.34; or

21 3. Classroom teachers identified by the school
22 administrator as struggling with behavior management within the
23 classroom.

24 (b) Each teacher mentor selected by the school district,
25 charter school, or charter management organization must have:

26 1. At least 3 years of teaching experience in
27 prekindergarten through grade 12.

28 2. Earned a highly effective rating on his or her most
29 recent performance evaluation under s. 1012.34.

30 (c) Each teacher mentor may receive a stipend of up to
31 \$3,000. The teacher mentor may work with multiple classroom
32 teachers.

33 (3) The Department of Education shall establish program
34 standards and a standard contract template for the teacher
35 mentor and mentee which outlines the responsibilities of each
36 person and establishes the framework and goals of the program.

37 (4) Each teacher mentor must:

38 (a) Not have an official management relationship with his
39 or her mentee.



779178

40 (b) Provide direction, advice, and a neutral sounding board
41 to his or her mentee.

42 (c) Maintain confidentiality, unless prohibited by law.

43 (d) Not have a personal agenda other than assisting his or
44 her mentee in developing and reaching the mentee's goals.

45 (e) Help his or her mentee in developing skills and
46 expertise, including drawing upon the teacher mentor's own
47 personal experiences.

48 (5) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
49 administer this section.

50 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
51 1011.62, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

52 1011.62 Funds for operation of schools.—If the annual
53 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each
54 district for operation of schools is not determined in the
55 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing
56 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as
57 follows:

58 (7) EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT ALLOCATION.—

59 (a) The educational enrichment allocation is created to
60 assist school districts in providing educational enrichment
61 activities and services that support and increase the academic
62 achievement of students in grades kindergarten through 12.
63 Educational enrichment activities and services may be provided
64 in a manner and at any time during or beyond the regular 180-day
65 term identified by the school district as being the most
66 effective and efficient way to best help the student progress
67 from grade to grade and graduate from high school. Funds from
68 the educational enrichment allocation may be used for the School



779178

69 Teacher Training and Mentoring Program under s. 1012.988. For
70 fiscal year 2023-2024, the educational enrichment allocation
71 shall consist of a base amount as specified in the General
72 Appropriations Act. Beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025, the
73 educational enrichment allocation shall consist of the base
74 amount that includes a workload adjustment based on changes in
75 the unweighted full-time equivalent membership. Beginning in
76 fiscal year 2025-2026, and each year thereafter, the statewide
77 average base amount as specified in the General Appropriations
78 Act shall be used for any new educational entity funded in the
79 Florida Education Finance Program.

80 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

81
82 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

83 And the title is amended as follows:

84 Delete everything before the enacting clause
85 and insert:

86 A bill to be entitled
87 An act relating to the School Teacher Training and
88 Mentoring Program; creating s. 1012.988, F.S.;
89 establishing the School Teacher Training and Mentoring
90 Program within the Department of Education; providing
91 the purpose of the program; authorizing school
92 districts and charter schools to place certain
93 classroom teachers as teacher mentors in specified
94 schools for specified purposes; providing requirements
95 for teacher mentors and mentees; authorizing teacher
96 mentors to receive a stipend and work with multiple
97 classroom teachers; providing department and teacher



779178

98 mentor responsibilities; authorizing the State Board
99 of Education to adopt rules; amending s. 1011.62,
100 F.S.; authorizing specified funds to be used for the
101 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program;
102 providing an effective date.

By Senator Jones

34-00553-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program; creating s. 1012.988, F.S.; establishing the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program within the Department of Education; providing the purpose of the program; providing for the award of stipends for classroom teacher mentorship, subject to appropriation; providing for the proration of the stipends under certain circumstances; providing department and school district responsibilities; specifying program requirements relating to contracts, standards, mentor requirements, and meetings; authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 1012.988, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1012.988 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program.-

(1) The School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program is established within the Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to increase the effectiveness and involvement of classroom teachers and improve student achievement, classroom management, and excellence in the state's public schools.

(2)(a) The department shall, subject to appropriation, provide funds to school districts to place retired classroom teachers who were evaluated as highly effective or current classroom teachers who are evaluated as highly effective as

Page 1 of 4

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

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mentors to:

1. New classroom teachers.

2. Classroom teachers who are rated as needs improvement, developing, or unsatisfactory.

3. Classroom teachers who struggle with behavior management in the classroom.

(b) Each stipend shall be \$2,000. The department shall provide enough funds for each school district to establish three mentors at each school within the district. However, if the funds appropriated are inadequate to provide the stipend to each mentor, stipends must be prorated using the same percentage reduction.

(3) School districts shall provide a stipend to three mentors at each school within the district. However, if there is a proven need at a school, the school district may allocate more than three stipends to that school. The award of such stipends may be part of a school district's professional development certification and professional education competency programs under s. 1012.56(8) and (9), respectively.

(4)(a) The program must provide a contract for the mentor and mentee which outlines each person's responsibilities and establishes the framework and goals of the program.

(b) The department shall establish standards for the program which must be based on the University College London Mentoring Handbook.

(c) The program must pair a more skilled or experienced classroom teacher as a mentor with a less experienced classroom teacher as a mentee.

(d) Each mentor must:

Page 2 of 4

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59 1. Not have an official management relationship with his or
60 her mentee.

61 2. Provide direction, advice, and a neutral sounding board
62 to his or her mentee.

63 3. Maintain confidentiality, unless prohibited by law.

64 4. Have no personal agenda other than assisting his or her
65 mentee in developing and reaching the mentee's goals.

66 5. Help his or her mentee in developing skills and
67 expertise, including by drawing upon the mentor's own personal
68 experiences.

69 (5) The program shall provide mentoring services for 6
70 months as follows:

71 (a) For the first month of the program, each mentor shall
72 complete two 90-minute sessions with his or her mentee.

73 (b) For the second and third months of the program, each
74 mentor shall complete two 60-minute sessions with his or her
75 mentee each month.

76 (c) For the fourth through sixth months of the program,
77 each mentor shall complete one 60-minute session with his or her
78 mentee each month.

79 (6) Each session must include the following:

80 (a) For the first session, the mentor and mentee shall
81 complete an introduction, establish the reason for the mentee's
82 participation in the program, and define the goals for the
83 remaining sessions.

84 (b) For the second session, the mentor and mentee shall
85 review the established goals, explore the mentee's current
86 skills, establish the mentee's desired goals, and establish a
87 plan to attain the mentee's desired goals.

Page 3 of 4

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88 (c) For the third session, the mentor and mentee shall
89 assess the mentee's skills, strengths, and weaknesses and how
90 those affect his or her goals.

91 (d) For the fourth through eighth sessions, the mentor and
92 mentee shall review the mentee's progress and address any
93 issues.

94 (e) For the ninth and final session, the mentor and mentee
95 shall complete a final review of the mentee's progress and
96 achievement of his or her goals and establish any future goals
97 for the mentee.

98 (7) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
99 administer this section.

100 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Page 4 of 4

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

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

182

Bill Number or Topic

2/10/2026

Meeting Date

ED Pre K-12

Committee

Marquise McMiller

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Orange County Public Schools

Phone 407-405-2050

Address 445 W Amelia St

Email marquise.mcmiller@ocps.net

Orlando

FL

32801

City

State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:
OCPS

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

February 10, 2026

Meeting Date

SB 182

Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Education PreK-12

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Nancy Lawther, Ph.D

Phone 305 607 3837

Address 9140 SW 59 Ave.

Email nlawther@gmail.com

Street

Miami FL 33156

City

State

Zip

Speaking: For Against Information OR Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022JointRules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: SB 1318

INTRODUCER: Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program

DATE: February 9, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Palazes	Bouck	ED	Favorable
2.			AED	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 1318 makes a technical change to clarify that when a student’s Florida Tax Credit scholarship account has been closed the remaining funds in the scholarship account must revert, but do not revert to the state.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Florida’s K-12 Scholarship Program

Florida offers several scholarship programs that allow parents of an eligible student to register their child to attend a private school that may better serve the student’s particular needs, provide educational options for their student with a disability, or direct the education of their child. The three scholarship programs include:

- The Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES), which includes:
 - The Family Empowerment Scholarship for students attending a private school (FES-EO).
 - The Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with disabilities (FES-UA).¹
- The Florida Tax Credit (FTC) Scholarship Program,² for students attending a private school or for students in a personalized education program (PEP).³
- The Hope Scholarship Program (HSP).⁴

¹ Section 1002.394, F.S.; *see also* Rule 6A-6.0952, F.A.C.

² Section 1002.395, F.S.; *see also* Rule 6A-6.0960, F.A.C.

³ Section 1002.395(2), F.S.

⁴ Section 1002.40, F.S.; *see also* Rule 6A-6.0951, F.A.C.

The Department of Education (DOE) and Commissioner of Education⁵ are tasked with implementation and oversight responsibilities. Florida's scholarship programs are administered by scholarship funding organizations (SFOs) approved by the DOE.⁶

As of November 2025, a total of 560,935 students were funded in the scholarship program in the 2025-2026 school year:⁷

- 307,993 students were funded through the FES-EO scholarship;
- 163,242 students were funded through the FES-UA scholarship;
- 7,560 students were funded through the FTC scholarship; and
- 84,140 students were funded through the PEP scholarship.

Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program

The Florida Tax Credit scholarship program (FTC) was established in 2001 to provide an income tax credit for corporations that contribute money to nonprofit Scholarship-Funding Organizations (SFOs) that award scholarships to students from families with limited financial resources.⁸ The FTC scholarship program allows taxpayers to make private, voluntary contributions to eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against the following Florida taxes:⁹

- Corporate income tax;
- Excise tax on liquor, wine, and malt beverages;
- Gas and oil production tax;
- Insurance premium tax; and
- Use tax due under a direct pay permit.

In any state fiscal year when the annual tax credit amount for the prior state fiscal year is equal to or greater than 90 percent of the tax credit cap amount applicable to that state fiscal year, the tax credit cap amount increases by 25 percent.¹⁰ In the 2012-2013 state fiscal year the tax credit cap was \$229 million,¹¹ for the 2024-2025 fiscal year the tax credit cap was \$1,091,957,093.¹²

The FTC Scholarship program consists of two types of scholarships, the FTC scholarship for low-income students to attend an eligible private school and students who elected a PEP scholarship.¹³ The purpose of the FTC scholarship program is to:¹⁴

- Enable taxpayers to make private, voluntary contributions to nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations in order to promote the general welfare.

⁵ Section 1002.421, F.S.

⁶ See ss. 1002.394(11) and 1002.395(6) and (15), F.S.

⁷ Email, Florida Department of Education (Dec. 1, 2025).

⁸ Florida Department of Education, *Florida Tax Credit FAQs*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/ftc/ftc-faqs.stml>, (last visited Feb. 5, 2026).

⁹ Florida Department of Revenue, *Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program*, available at https://floridarevenue.com/taxes/taxesfees/Pages/sfo_taxes.aspx, last visited (Feb. 5, 2026).

¹⁰ Section 1002.395(5)(a)2.

¹¹ *Id.* at (5)(a)1.

¹² Florida Department of Education, *Florida Tax Credit Scholarships*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/ftc/>, last visited (Feb. 5, 2026).

¹³ Section 1002.395, F.S.

¹⁴ *Id.* at (1)(b).

- Provide taxpayers who wish to help parents with limited resources exercise their basic right to educate their children as they see fit with a means to do so.
- Promote the general welfare by expanding educational opportunities for children of families that have limited financial resources.
- Enable children in this state to achieve a greater level of excellence in their education.
- Improve the quality of education in this state, both by expanding educational opportunities for children and by creating incentives for schools to achieve excellence.

In 2023, the legislature passed HB 1,¹⁵ which incorrectly required SFOs to revert remaining funds from tax credits to the state when certain conditions were met. The law should direct reverted funds back to the SFO which received the donations. The SFO is required to revert funds from the FTC scholarship program when a student's scholarship account is closed for one of the following reasons:¹⁶

- Denial or revocation of program eligibility by the commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to, the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund, or rebate, in any manner, from a provider.
- Two consecutive fiscal years in which an account has been inactive; or
- The student remains unenrolled in an eligible private school for 30 days while receiving a scholarship that requires full-time enrollment.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1318 amends s. 1002.395, F.S., to make a technical change to clarify that when a student's Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program account has been closed the remaining funds in the scholarship account must revert, but do not revert to the state.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

¹⁵ Ch. 2013-16, Laws of Fla.

¹⁶ Section 1002.395(11)(h), F.S.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 1002.395 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00284A-26

20261318__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
3 Program; amending s. 1002.395, F.S.; removing language
4 requiring certain program funds to revert to the
5 state; providing an effective date.
6
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
8
9 Section 1. Paragraphs (g) and (h) of subsection (11) of
10 section 1002.395, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
11 1002.395 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.—
12 (11) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT AND PAYMENT.—
13 (g) Reimbursements for program expenditures may continue
14 until the account balance is expended or remaining funds have
15 reverted ~~to the state~~.
16 (h) A student's scholarship account must be closed and any
17 remaining funds shall revert ~~to the state~~ after:
18 1. Denial or revocation of program eligibility by the
19 commissioner for fraud or abuse, including, but not limited to,
20 the student or student's parent accepting any payment, refund,
21 or rebate, in any manner, from a provider of any services
22 received pursuant to paragraph (6) (d);
23 2. Two consecutive fiscal years in which an account has
24 been inactive; or
25 3. The student remains unenrolled in an eligible private
26 school for 30 days while receiving a scholarship that requires
27 full-time enrollment.
28 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12

BILL: CS/CS/SB 1690

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K - 12 Committee; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senator Calatayud

SUBJECT: Early Childhood Education

DATE: February 11, 2026 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Fiore</u>	<u>Tuszynski</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Sabitsch</u>	<u>Bouck</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
3.	_____	_____	<u>AP</u>	_____

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/CS/SB 1690 makes several statutory changes relating to early childhood education and child care regulation, and directs initiatives to enhance early childhood education.

In child care regulation, the bill:

- Amends references to “family *day care* home” to “family *child care* home” throughout Florida Statutes.
- Requires the Department of Children and Families and local licensing agencies to disseminate electronically certain information regarding all child care facilities to the community.
- Removes the annual requirements for family day care homes and large family child care homes to provide parents with information related to flu shots and leaving children in a vehicle unattended.
- Requires child care facilities that are exempt from licensure to include a specified statement regarding their exemption on their website, promotional materials and facility-created documents, and forms provided to families.
- Adds “large family child care” as a type of child care services where the cancelation, denial, or nonrenewal of residential property insurance is prohibited solely on the basis that those services are provided at the residence.

In early childhood education, the bill:

- Authorizes the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to raise and manage funds and property for the benefit of the state's early learning programs for children ages zero to five.
- Establishes the Florida Endowment for Early Learning within the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to broaden the participation and funding potential to support and promote early learning opportunities.
- Expands the role of the TEACH Scholarship Program administrator to establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure statewide alignment of training, trainer approval, and competency-based assessments for early learning professionals.

The bill has an anticipated negative fiscal impact of \$114,739 related to the Florida Endowment for Early Learning Foundation.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Child Care Regulation

Florida regulates child care facilities, family day care homes, and large family child care homes under Chapter 402, F.S., which establishes licensure requirements, minimum standards, and enforcement authority for the Department of Children and Families (DCF). "Child care" is the care, protection and supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment, and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is made for care.¹ If a program meets the statutory definition of child care, it is subject to regulation by the DCF or a local licensing agency, unless statute specifically excludes or exempts it from regulation.²

The child care licensing program is administered by the DCF and is accountable for the statewide licensure of Florida's child care facilities,³ large family child care homes,⁴ and the licensure or registration of family day care homes.⁵ Licensing standards for child care facilities must address personnel qualifications, health and safety requirements, sanitation, emergency preparedness, and training, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation requirements.⁶ Child care facilities must have at least one staff person trained in person in cardiopulmonary resuscitation present at all times that children are present.⁷

Family day care homes must be licensed if the home is currently licensed under an existing county licensing ordinance or if the board of county commissioners passes a resolution that

¹ Section 402.302(1), F.S.

² Sections 402.301-402.319, F.S.

³ Section 402.305, F.S.

⁴ Section 402.3131, F.S.

⁵ Section 402.313, F.S.

⁶ Section 402.305, F.S.

⁷ Section 402.305(7), F.S.

family day care homes must be licensed. If not subject to licensure, a family day care home must register with the DCF.⁸

Public Access to Child Care Information

The DCF and local licensing agencies must make available through electronic means all licensing standards and procedures, health and safety standards for school readiness providers, monitoring and inspection reports, and identifying information for licensed child care facilities, school readiness providers, and licensed or registered family day care homes.⁹ In addition, the required information includes annual data on deaths, serious injuries, and substantiated instances of child abuse occurring in child care settings.¹⁰ Because information captured in these reports is specific to *licensed* child care facilities, those which are exempt from licensure are not required to be included in these public reports.

Child Care Licensure Exemptions

A “child care facility” is generally defined as any arrangement providing care for more than five unrelated children for compensation.¹¹ Florida law provides exemptions from licensure requirements for certain child care facilities while preserving minimum health and safety protections.¹² Child care facilities that are an integral part of church or parochial schools and those that are operated by a business for the benefit of its employees are exempt from licensure requirements, but must comply with local health, sanitation, and safety requirements and with state background screening requirements for child care personnel.¹³ In addition, child care facilities and family day care homes that hold a certificate from the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Coast Guard and meet applicable federal background screening standards are exempt from licensure unless they elect to serve children who are ineligible for care under federal military child care rules.¹⁴

Family Day Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes

A “family day care home” is an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families and which receive payments, fees, or grants for the children receiving care, whether or not operated for profit.¹⁵ Florida law establishes tiered capacity limits for family day care homes based on the number and ages of children in care.¹⁶

- Up to four children from birth to 12 months of age;
- Up to three children from birth to 12 months of age, plus additional children, for a maximum total of six children;
- Up to six preschool children, provided all children are older than 12 months of age; or

⁸ Section 402.305(7), F.S.

⁹ Section 402.306(3), F.S.

¹⁰ *Id.*; and *see also* Florida Department of Children and Families, *Brochures, Fact Sheets, and Reports*, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care/child-care-providers-and-staff/brochures-fact-sheets-and-reports> (last visited on 02/04/2026).

¹¹ Section 402.302(2), F.S.

¹² Section 402.316, F.S.

¹³ Section 402.316(1), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 402.316(2), F.S.

¹⁵ Sections 402.302(8) and 402.313, F.S.

¹⁶ Sections 402.302(8), F.S.

- Up to 10 children, provided that no more than five are preschool age and, of those five preschool children, no more than two are under 12 months of age.

These limits apply to the total number of children present, including the operator's own children under 13 years of age who are on the premises during operating hours.¹⁷ Unlike large family child care homes, family day care homes do not require two full-time child care personnel to always be present.

A "large family child care home" is a residential child care setting that serves more children than a standard family day care home and is subject to enhanced licensure requirements.¹⁸ To qualify as a large family child care home, the residence must have at least two full-time child care personnel present during operating hours, one of whom must be the owner or occupant of the residence.¹⁹ The operator must first have operated as a *licensed* family day care home for two years, with an operator who holds a child development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year.²⁰ Including the operator's own children under 13 years of age who are on the premises during operating hours, large family child care homes may care for up to eight children from birth to 24 months of age or up to 12 children total, provided no more than four children are under 24 months of age.²¹

Family day care homes and large family child care homes must provide parents with educational materials regarding influenza immunization and the risks associated with leaving children unattended in vehicles.²²

Insurance Coverage for Child Care Operations

While the Legislature has recognized the importance of family child care homes in meeting child care needs, it has also acknowledged that child care operations increase liability exposure for insurers.²³ As a result, Florida law provides that coverage for liability arising from child care operations are generally excluded from residential property insurance policies unless such coverage is specifically included by endorsement.²⁴ Insurers are prohibited from denying, canceling, or refusing to renew a policy solely because a policyholder operates a family child day care home, subject to statutory exceptions.²⁵ The insurance protections for family day care homes do not extend to large family day care homes.

¹⁷ Sections 402.302(8), F.S.

¹⁸ Sections 402.302(11) and 402.3131, F.S.

¹⁹ Section 402.302(11), F.S.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² Section 402.3131(9)-(10), F.S.

²³ Section 627.70161(1), F.S.

²⁴ Section 627.70161(3), F.S.

²⁵ Section 627.70161(4), F.S.

Early Learning Programs and Workforce Support

Direct-Support Organizations

A direct-support organization (DSO) is a non-profit corporation that supports a public entity, such as a university, school district, or state agency, by raising and managing funds, managing property, and conducting programs consistent with the public entity's mission. The Florida Education Foundation, Inc., is a DSO of the Department of Education organized exclusively to receive, hold, invest, and administer property and make expenditures to or for the benefit of public pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education in Florida.²⁶

Early Learning Programs

Florida also operates early learning and child care assistance programs, such as the School Readiness Program²⁷ and the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.²⁸ Florida's VPK Program is a free, state-funded educational program designed to prepare four-year-olds for kindergarten and beyond. Each child who resides in Florida who will have attained the age of four years old on or before September 1 of the school year is eligible for the VPK Program during either that school year or the following school year.²⁹ Parents can choose to enroll their child in VPK Programs provided by private child care centers or public schools and school-year or summer programs.³⁰ Florida's School Readiness Program provides subsidies for child care services and early childhood education for children from low-income families; children in protective services who are at risk of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or homelessness; foster children; and children with disabilities.³¹

Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Scholarship Program

The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program provides educational scholarships to early learning personnel to improve workforce qualifications and retention.³² The scholarship is available to Florida-resident teachers, directors, and family child care educators who meet specified education, employment, work-hour, and employer sponsorship requirements in licensed or exempt early learning or after-school settings.³³

²⁶ Section 1001.24(1)(a)2., F.S.; and Florida Education Foundation, Inc., *Financial Statements June 30, 2024 and 2023*, at pg. 10, https://flauditor.gov/pages/nonprofit_forprofit%20rpts/2024%20florida%20education%20foundation.pdf (last visited January 29, 2026).

²⁷ Sections 1002.81-1002.995, F.S.

²⁸ Sections 1002.51-1002.79, F.S.

²⁹ Section 1002.53(2), F.S.; see also Florida Department of Education, *What is Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK)?*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/parents/vpk-parents.stml> (last visited January 29, 2026).

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ Sections 1002.81 and 1002.87, F.S.

³² Section 1002.95, F.S.

³³ Florida Head Start Organization, *T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program, Scholarship Models*, available at <https://www.flheadstart.org/assets/docs/TEACH/TEACH%20model%20brochure%20-final%2011-27.pdf>, (last visited January 29, 2026).

The program covers tuition and books, provides stipends and completion bonuses, offers counseling and administrative support, and reimburses employers for paid release time provided to participating scholars.³⁴

Early Learning Professional Learning Standards and Career Pathways

In 2019, the Legislature directed the Department of Education to develop statewide early learning training standards and identify career pathways with stackable, competency-based credentials for school readiness and early learning professionals.³⁵ These credentials should align with established professional standards, improve instructional practice, and support better child outcomes, including kindergarten readiness. The Department of Education is also authorized to provide incentives to qualified early learning and prekindergarten personnel who hold specified reading or literacy credentials, with alignment to K–12 training standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 402.306, F.S., to include in Department of Children and Families (DCF) and local licensing agency reporting all child care facilities, rather than only those that are licensed, regarding licensing standards and procedures, health and safety standards for school readiness providers, monitoring and inspection reports, and annual data on child deaths, serious injuries, and substantiated abuse that have occurred in child care settings. The provision includes in reporting those child care facilities that are an integral part of a church or parochial school and those that are run by businesses for the benefit of their employees.

Section 2 amends s. 402.313, F.S., to delete statutory provisions requiring family day care homes to provide parents with informational materials every August and September regarding influenza immunization and every April and September regarding the risks of leaving children unattended in vehicles.

Section 3 amends s. 402.3131, F.S., to delete statutory provisions requiring large family child care homes to provide parents with informational materials every August and September regarding influenza immunization and every April and September regarding the risks of leaving children unattended in vehicles.

Section 4 amends s. 402.316, F.S., to require certain exempt child care facilities, specifically those that are an integral part of a church or parochial school and those that are run by businesses for the benefit of their employees, to include the statement “(child care facility name) is a child care facility operating under an exemption pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida and is not subject to licensure or regulation by the Department of Children and Families” on their websites and, at a minimum, in their promotional literature and facility-created documents and forms provided to families they serve.

³⁴ Florida Head Start Organization, *T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program, Scholarship Models*, available at <https://www.flheadstart.org/assets/docs/TEACH/TEACH%20model%20brochure%20-final%2011-27.pdf>, (last visited January 29, 2026).

³⁵ Section 1002.995, F.S.

Section 5 amends s. 627.70161, F.S., to define “large family child care home” to mean an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families for payment and has at least two full-time child care personnel, one of which must be the owner or occupant of the residence. The definition requires that a large family child care home to have first operated as a licensed family child care home for at least 2 years, by a credentialed operator holding that credential for at least 1 year. The definition requires any children under 13 years of age on the premises or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care to be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home and limits the number of children under 13 years of age a large family child care home may provide care to:

- 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.
- 12 children maximum, with no more than 4 children under 24 months of age.

The bill adds large family child care homes to the current statutory prohibition on residential property insurance policies from providing liability coverage for claims arising from the operation of these child care homes unless such coverage is specifically covered in a policy or expressly included by rider or endorsement for business coverage attached to a policy. The section also adds large family child care homes to the section of law that provides that insurers are not obligated to defend such claims absent coverage and prohibits insurers from denying, canceling, or refusing to renew residential property insurance policies solely because the insured operates a family or large family child care home, subject to enumerated exceptions.

Section 6 amends s. 1001.24, F.S., to add “state’s early learning programs for children from birth to 5 years of age” to the definition of the Department of Education (DOE) direct-support organization (DSO). This will authorize the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures to or for the benefit of the state's early learning programs for children birth to five, in addition to what it already provides for public prekindergarten through grade 12.

Section 7 creates s. 1002.821, F.S., establishing the Florida Endowment for Early Learning within the DOE’s DSO to serve as a long-term, stable and growing funding source for early learning initiatives. It defines key entities and accounts, including the endowment fund, an operating account, the governing board, and the foundation, and states legislative findings and intent to expand access to high-quality early learning through public and private financial support.

The section authorizes the DSO board to receive and manage state appropriations, private donations, grants, and gifts; requires separate accounting for state and nonstate funds; and establishes an operating account to carry out programmatic purposes. It further authorizes distributions for direct services to children through early learning coalitions and for donor-designated early learning programs, requires competitive solicitation for certain expenditures, mandates annual reporting by the Division of Early Learning, and directs the State Board of Education to adopt implementing rules.

Section 8 amends s. 1002.95, F.S., to provide that, subject to an appropriation, the administrator of the TEACH Scholarship Program must establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure statewide alignment of training, trainer approval, and competency-based assessments. There is currently no such professional recognition entity

for early childhood professionals designated or recognized in statute. However, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) maintains a registry where individuals employed in child care are required to register for courses or continuing education units (CEUs) assessments, take courses or CEU assessments online and are able to view their individual training transcript.³⁶ It is unclear how the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition would interact or overlap with the existing systems.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9-32 amend “family *day care* home” to “family *child care* home” to conform to the substantive changes in the bill throughout Florida Statutes. Such change in name will require modifications to administrative rules, forms, contracts, and websites.

Section 34 provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

³⁶ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Training and Credentialing*, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/childcaretraining> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Education will likely require an additional FTE for the Florida Education Foundation's expanded responsibilities relating to early learning. Estimated total cost for the position is likely \$114,739 in the following:

- Salary and benefits: \$87,601;
- Expenses: \$7,392/Recurring, \$6,437/Non-recurring;
- Human Resources: \$356/Recurring; and
- Education Technology: \$12,953.³⁷

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 402.306, 402.313, 402.3131, 402.316, 627.70161, 1001.24, 1002.95, 39.202, 125.0109, 166.0445, 212.08, 402.302, 402.305, 402.309, 402.310, 402.3115, 402.312, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318, 402.319, 409.988, 411.203, 1002.55, 1002.82, 1002.83, 1002.84, 1002.88, 1002.895, 1002.92, 1002.93, 1002.945

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1002.821.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Pre-K – 12 on February 10, 2026:

The CS revises rulemaking specified in the bill to reflect that the State Board of Education has the authority to adopt rules rather than the Department of Education.

CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs on February 3, 2026:

The CS removes:

- The revisions to certain child care licensure standards;
- The contemplated exemptions relating to certain before-and after-school programs administered by public schools and nonpublic schools; and
- The directive for certain state agencies to examine the creation of a child care and early learning voucher program for children from families employed in high-demand occupations.

³⁷ Email from Sarah Moosbrugger, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs for the Department of Education, *RE: Senate Request: SB 1690 Early Childhood Education - Fiscal Impact, 2/5/2026*, on file with the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

The CS maintains:

- The deletion of the requirement for child care homes to provide parents with information related to flu shots and leaving children in a vehicle unattended;
- The prohibition on the cancelation, denial, or nonrenewal of residential property insurance solely on the basis that certain child care services are provided at the residence;
- The authorization for the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to raise and manage funds and property, and to conduct programs for the benefit of early learning programs and certain child care providers; and
- The expansion of the role of the TEACH Scholarship Program administrator to establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure statewide alignment of training, trainer approval, and competency-based assessments for early learning professionals.

The CS adds the following:

- Requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and local licensing agencies to make publicly available certain information for all child care facilities, including those child care facilities that are an integral part of a church or parochial school and those that are run by businesses for the benefit of their employees and also requires certain exempt from licensure child care facilities to include specific notice to consumers that they operate under an exemption from licensure or regulation by the DCF;
- Creates the Florida Endowment for Early Learning within the Department of Education's (DOE's) direct-support organization to serve as a long-term, stable funding source for early learning initiatives. The language; defines key entities and accounts; authorizes the board to receive and manage state appropriations, private donations, grants, and gifts, requires separate accounting for state and nonstate funds, and establishes an operating account to carry out programmatic purposes; authorizes distributions for direct services to children through early learning coalitions and for donor-designated early learning programs; requires annual reporting by the Division of Early Learning; and directs the DOE to adopt implementing rules; and
- Makes conforming changes throughout statute.

B. Amendments:

None.



663670

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/11/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K - 12 (Calatayud) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 547 - 647
and insert:
adopted by the State Board of Education.

(b) The principal of the endowment fund shall be derived from any legislative appropriations that may be made to the endowment, and such bequests, gifts, grants, and donations as may be solicited for such purpose by the foundation from public or private sources.



663670

11 (c) The board of directors of the foundation shall
12 establish the operating account and shall deposit therein the
13 moneys transmitted. Moneys in the operating account shall be
14 available to carry out the purposes of subsection (6).

15 (d) Funds received from state sources shall be accounted
16 for separately from bequests, gifts, grants, and donations,
17 which may be solicited for such purposes by the foundation from
18 public or private sources. Earnings on funds received from state
19 sources and funds received from public or private sources shall
20 be accounted for separately.

21 (5) ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES.—Within the limits
22 prescribed in this section or by rule of the State Board of
23 Education:

24 (a) The board may solicit and receive bequests, gifts,
25 grants, donations, goods, and services. Where gifts are
26 restricted as to purpose, they may be used only for the purpose
27 or purposes stated by the donor. The board may transmit monetary
28 gifts to the State Board of Administration for deposit in the
29 endowment fund principal.

30 (b) The board may enter into contracts with the Federal
31 Government, state or local agencies, early learning coalitions,
32 private entities, or individuals to carry out the purposes of
33 this section.

34 (c) The board may identify, initiate, and fund new and
35 creative programs to carry out the purposes of this section,
36 utilizing existing organizations, early learning coalitions,
37 associations, and agencies to carry out such early learning
38 programs and purposes wherever possible.

39 (d) The board may make gifts or grants to all of the



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40 following:

41 1. The state or any political subdivision thereof, or any
42 public agency of state or local government.

43 2. An early learning coalition for administration of direct
44 services to children identified by the board.

45 3. The division for purposes of program recognition and
46 marketing, public relations, and education.

47 (e) The board may advertise and solicit applications for
48 funding and shall evaluate applications and program proposals
49 submitted thereto. Funding shall be awarded only where the
50 evaluation is positive and the proposal meets both the
51 guidelines for use established in subsection (6) and such
52 evaluation criteria as the State Board of Education may
53 prescribe by rule.

54 (f) The board shall monitor, review, and annually evaluate
55 funded programs to determine whether funding should be
56 continued, terminated, reduced, or increased.

57 (g) The board shall establish an operating account as
58 provided in paragraph (4) (c).

59 (h) The board may take additional actions, including the
60 hiring of necessary staff, as are deemed necessary and
61 appropriate to administer this section, subject to rules of the
62 State Board of Education.

63 (6) DISTRIBUTION OF MONEYS.—The board shall use the moneys
64 in the operating account to provide for:

65 (a) Direct services to children in accordance with an
66 allocation methodology proposed by the Division of Early
67 Learning to an early learning coalition approved by the board.

68 1. The parent or guardian of a child receiving direct



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69 services from an early learning coalition shall choose from
70 providers under a contract with an early learning coalition
71 pursuant to s. 1002.88.

72 2. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, the early
73 learning coalition shall apply a parent copay based on family
74 income pursuant to s. 1002.84(9) or s. 1002.935(2)(b).

75 3. The early learning coalition shall reimburse a provider
76 servicing a child using direct service funds from the early
77 learning endowment at the same reimbursement rate allowed
78 pursuant to s. 1002.84(17)(a).

79 4. Each early learning coalition providing direct services
80 must comply with the same administrative requirements under this
81 part.

82 (b) Programs designed to support early learning as
83 identified by donors, gifts, or grants.

84
85 Any allocation of funds made for programs pursuant to paragraph
86 (b) or for advertising or consulting is subject to a competitive
87 solicitation process. State funds may not be used to fund events
88 for private sector donors or potential donors or to honor
89 supporters.

90 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Division of Early Learning shall
91 include information in its report of activities pursuant to s.
92 1002.82(7) summarizing the performance of the endowment fund for
93 the previous fiscal year, summarizing the foundation's
94 fundraising activities and performance, and detailing the
95 activities and programs supported by the endowment principal or
96 earnings on the endowment principal and the activities and
97 programs supported by private sources, bequests, gifts, grants,



663670

98 donations, and other valued goods and services received. The
99 report must also include all of the following:

100 (a) Financial data, by service type, including expenditures
101 for administration and the provision of services by each early
102 learning coalition.

103 (b) The amount of funds spent on administrative expenses
104 and fundraising and the amount of funds raised from private
105 sources.

106 (c) Outcome data, including the number of children served
107 and any child outcomes.

108 (8) RULES.—The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
109 to implement

110
111 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

112 And the title is amended as follows:

113 Delete line 58

114 and insert:

115 activities; requiring the State Board of Education to

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and
Senator Calatayud

586-02453-26

20261690c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to child care and early learning
3 services; amending s. 402.306, F.S.; revising the
4 information on child care required to be disseminated
5 electronically to the community; amending ss. 402.313
6 and 402.3131, F.S.; deleting the requirement that
7 family child care homes and large family child care
8 homes, respectively, provide specified information to
9 parents each year; conforming provisions to changes
10 made by the act; amending s. 402.316, F.S.; requiring
11 that certain child care facilities exempt from
12 licensure requirements meet certain minimum
13 requirements; providing that failure to meet such
14 minimum requirements results in the loss of the
15 exemption from licensure; requiring child care
16 facilities exempt from licensure requirements to
17 include a specified statement on its website and in
18 its promotional materials and facility-created
19 documents and forms provided to families served by the
20 child care facility; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.;
21 changing the term "family day care home" to "family
22 child care home"; providing legislative findings and
23 intent relating to large family child care homes;
24 defining the term "large family child care home";
25 prohibiting residential property insurance policies
26 from providing coverage for liability for claims
27 arising out of, or in connection with, the operations
28 of large family child care homes; providing that
29 insurers are under no obligation to defend against

Page 1 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

30 lawsuits covering such claims; providing exceptions;
31 prohibiting insurers from denying, cancelling, or
32 refusing to renew a policy for residential property
33 insurance on the basis that the policyholders or
34 applicants operate large family child care homes;
35 providing exceptions; reenacting and amending s.
36 1001.24, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
37 "Department of Education direct-support organization";
38 creating s. 1002.821, F.S.; providing a short title;
39 defining terms; providing legislative intent;
40 establishing the Florida Endowment for Early Learning
41 Foundation within a Department of Education direct-
42 support organization for a specified purpose;
43 requiring that the endowment fund principal derive
44 from specified sources; requiring the board of
45 directors to establish and deposit money into the
46 operating account; requiring such money to be used for
47 a specified purpose; requiring that funds from state
48 sources be accounted for separately from public and
49 private sources; specifying powers and duties of the
50 board of directors; requiring the board to use the
51 moneys in the operating account for specified
52 purposes; providing for early learning provider
53 selection, copay pricing, reimbursement, and
54 administrative requirements; prohibiting state funds
55 from being spent in certain donors or supporters;
56 requiring the Division of Early Learning to include
57 specified information in its annual report of its
58 activities; requiring the Department of Education to

Page 2 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

59 adopt rules; amending s. 1002.95, F.S.; requiring the
 60 administrator of the Teacher Education and
 61 Compensation Helps Scholarship Program, subject to an
 62 appropriation, to establish and administer the Center
 63 for Early Childhood Professional Recognition for a
 64 specified purpose; amending ss. 39.202, 125.0109,
 65 166.0445, 212.08, 402.302, 402.305, 402.309, 402.310,
 66 402.3115, 402.312, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318, 402.319,
 67 409.988, 411.203, 1002.55, 1002.82, 1002.83, 1002.84,
 68 1002.88, 1002.895, 1002.92, 1002.93, and 1002.945,
 69 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
 70 act; providing an effective date.

71
 72 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

73
 74 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 402.306, Florida
 75 Statutes, is amended to read:

76 402.306 Designation of licensing agency; dissemination by
 77 the department and local licensing agency of information on
 78 child care.—

79 (3) The department and local licensing agencies, or the
 80 designees thereof, shall be responsible for coordination and
 81 dissemination of information on child care to the community and
 82 shall make available through electronic means all licensing
 83 standards and procedures, health and safety standards for school
 84 readiness providers, monitoring and inspection reports, and the
 85 names and addresses of ~~licensed~~ child care facilities, school
 86 readiness program providers, and, where applicable pursuant to
 87 s. 402.313, licensed or registered family child day care homes.

Page 3 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

88 This information shall also include the number of deaths,
 89 serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse
 90 that have occurred in child care settings, including those which
 91 are exempt pursuant to s. 402.316(1) or (2), each year; research
 92 and best practices in child development; and resources regarding
 93 social-emotional development, parent and family engagement,
 94 healthy eating, and physical activity.

95 Section 2. Section 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 96 read:

97 402.313 Family child day care homes.—

98 (1) Family child day care homes shall be licensed under
 99 this act if they are presently being licensed under an existing
 100 county licensing ordinance or if the board of county
 101 commissioners passes a resolution that family child day care
 102 homes be licensed.

103 (a) If not subject to license, family child day care homes
 104 shall register annually with the department, providing the
 105 following information:

- 106 1. The name and address of the home.
- 107 2. The name of the operator.
- 108 3. The number of children served.
- 109 4. Proof of a written plan to provide at least one other
 110 competent adult to be available to substitute for the operator
 111 in an emergency. This plan shall include the name, address, and
 112 telephone number of the designated substitute.
- 113 5. Proof of screening and background checks.
- 114 6. Proof of successful completion of the 30-hour training
 115 course, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination,
 116 which shall include:

Page 4 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

- 117 a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child
118 care.
- 119 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.
- 120 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- 121 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
122 language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and self-
123 help skills development.
- 124 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using
125 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to
126 determine a child's developmental level.
- 127 f. Specialized areas, including early literacy and language
128 development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as
129 determined by the department, for owner-operators of family
130 child day care homes.
- 131 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.
- 132 8. Proof of completion of the required continuing education
133 units or clock hours.
- 134 (b) A family child day care home may volunteer to be
135 licensed under this act.
- 136 (c) The department may provide technical assistance to
137 counties and family child day care home providers to enable
138 counties and family child day care providers to achieve
139 compliance with family child day care homes standards.
- 140 (2) This information shall be included in a directory to be
141 published annually by the department to inform the public of
142 available child care facilities.
- 143 (3) Child care personnel in family child day care homes
144 shall be subject to the applicable screening provisions
145 contained in ss. 402.305(2) and 402.3055. For purposes of

586-02453-26

20261690c1

- 146 screening in family child day care homes, the term includes any
147 member over the age of 12 years of a family child day care home
148 operator's family, or persons over the age of 12 years residing
149 with the operator in the family child day care home. Members of
150 the operator's family, or persons residing with the operator,
151 who are between the ages of 12 years and 18 years shall not be
152 required to be fingerprinted, but shall be screened for
153 delinquency records.
- 154 (4) Operators of family child day care homes must
155 successfully complete an approved 30-clock-hour introductory
156 course in child care, as evidenced by passage of a competency
157 examination, before caring for children.
- 158 (5) In order to further develop their child care skills
159 and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of
160 family child day care homes shall be required to complete an
161 additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training or
162 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the
163 department, annually.
- 164 (6) Operators of family child day care homes shall be
165 required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved
166 training in early literacy and language development of children
167 from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this
168 training is completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing
169 education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required
170 in subsection (5).
- 171 (7) Operators of family child day care homes shall be
172 required annually to complete a health and safety home
173 inspection self-evaluation checklist developed by the department
174 in conjunction with the statewide resource and referral program.

586-02453-26

20261690c1

175 The completed checklist shall be signed by the operator of the
 176 family child day care home and provided to parents as
 177 certification that basic health and safety standards are being
 178 met.

179 (8) Family child day care home operators may avail
 180 themselves of supportive services offered by the department.

181 (9) The department shall prepare a brochure on family child
 182 ~~day~~ care for distribution by the department and by local
 183 licensing agencies, if appropriate, to family child day care
 184 homes for distribution to parents utilizing such child care, and
 185 to all interested persons, including physicians and other health
 186 professionals; mental health professionals; school teachers or
 187 other school personnel; social workers or other professional
 188 child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers;
 189 and law enforcement officers. The brochure shall, at a minimum,
 190 contain the following information:

191 (a) A brief description of the requirements for family
 192 child day care registration, training, and fingerprinting and
 193 screening.

194 (b) A listing of those counties that require licensure of
 195 family child day care homes. Such counties shall provide an
 196 addendum to the brochure that provides a brief description of
 197 the licensure requirements or may provide a brochure in lieu of
 198 the one described in this subsection, provided it contains all
 199 the required information on licensure and the required
 200 information in the subsequent paragraphs.

201 (c) A statement indicating that information about the
 202 family child day care home's compliance with applicable state or
 203 local requirements can be obtained by telephoning the department

586-02453-26

20261690c1

204 office or the office of the local licensing agency, if
 205 appropriate, at a telephone number or numbers which shall be
 206 affixed to the brochure.

207 (d) The statewide toll-free telephone number of the central
 208 abuse hotline, together with a notice that reports of suspected
 209 and actual child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect are
 210 received and referred for investigation by the hotline.

211 (e) Any other information relating to competent child care
 212 that the department or local licensing agency, if preparing a
 213 separate brochure, deems would be helpful to parents and other
 214 caretakers in their selection of a family child day care home.

215 (10) On an annual basis, the department shall evaluate the
 216 registration and licensure system for family child day care
 217 homes. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum, address the
 218 following:

219 (a) The number of family child day care homes registered
 220 and licensed and the dates of such registration and licensure.

221 (b) The number of children being served in both registered
 222 and licensed family child day care homes and any available slots
 223 in such homes.

224 (c) The number of complaints received concerning family
 225 child day care, the nature of the complaints, and the resolution
 226 of such complaints.

227 (d) The training activities utilized by child care
 228 personnel in family child day care homes for meeting the state
 229 or local training requirements.

230
 231 The evaluation shall be utilized by the department in any
 232 administrative modifications or adjustments to be made in the

586-02453-26 20261690c1

233 registration of family child day care homes or in any
 234 legislative requests for modifications to the system of
 235 registration or to other requirements for family child day care
 236 homes.

237 (11) In order to inform the public of the state requirement
 238 for registration of family child day care homes as well as the
 239 other requirements for such homes to legally operate in the
 240 state, the department shall institute a media campaign to
 241 accomplish this end. Such a campaign shall include, at a
 242 minimum, flyers, newspaper advertisements, radio advertisements,
 243 and television advertisements.

244 (12) Notwithstanding any other state or local law or
 245 ordinance, any family child day care home licensed pursuant to
 246 this chapter or pursuant to a county ordinance shall be charged
 247 the utility rates accorded to a residential home. A licensed
 248 family child day care home may not be charged commercial utility
 249 rates.

250 (13) The department shall, by rule, establish minimum
 251 standards for family child day care homes that are required to
 252 be licensed by county licensing ordinance or county licensing
 253 resolution or that voluntarily choose to be licensed. The
 254 standards should include requirements for staffing, training,
 255 maintenance of immunization records, minimum health and safety
 256 standards, reduced standards for the regulation of child care
 257 during evening hours by municipalities and counties, and
 258 enforcement of standards.

259 ~~(14) During the months of August and September of each~~
 260 ~~year, each family day care home shall provide parents of~~
 261 ~~children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the~~

586-02453-26 20261690c1

262 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~
 263 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~
 264 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~
 265 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~
 266 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

267 ~~(15) During the months of April and September of each year,~~
 268 ~~at a minimum, each family day care home shall provide parents of~~
 269 ~~children attending the family day care home information~~
 270 ~~regarding the potential for a distracted adult to fail to drop~~
 271 ~~off a child at the family day care home and instead leave the~~
 272 ~~child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's~~
 273 ~~destination. The family day care home shall also give parents~~
 274 ~~information about resources with suggestions to avoid this~~
 275 ~~occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or brochure~~
 276 ~~with this information that shall be posted to the department's~~
 277 ~~website, which family day care homes may choose to reproduce and~~
 278 ~~provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of this~~
 279 ~~subsection.~~

280 Section 3. Subsections (9) and (10) of section 402.3131,
 281 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

282 402.3131 Large family child care homes.—

283 ~~(9) During the months of August and September of each year,~~
 284 ~~each large family child care home shall provide parents of~~
 285 ~~children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the~~
 286 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~
 287 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~
 288 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~
 289 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~
 290 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

586-02453-26

20261690c1

291 ~~(10) During the months of April and September of each year,~~
 292 ~~at a minimum, each large family child care home shall provide~~
 293 ~~parents of children attending the large family child care home~~
 294 ~~information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to~~
 295 ~~fail to drop off a child at the large family child care home and~~
 296 ~~instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at~~
 297 ~~the adult's destination. The large family child care home shall~~
 298 ~~also give parents information about resources with suggestions~~
 299 ~~to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer~~
 300 ~~or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the~~
 301 ~~department's website, which large family child care homes may~~
 302 ~~choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the~~
 303 ~~requirements of this subsection.~~

304 Section 4. Section 402.316, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 305 read:

306 402.316 Exemptions.—

307 (1) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the
 308 requirements regarding screening of child care personnel
 309 pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child
 310 care facility which is an integral part of church or parochial
 311 schools, ~~or a child care facility that solely provides child~~
 312 ~~care to eligible children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c),~~
 313 conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of study, or
 314 educational programs accredited by, or by a member of, an
 315 organization that which publishes and requires compliance with
 316 its standards for health, safety, and sanitation. ~~However,~~ Such
 317 facilities must shall meet minimum requirements of the
 318 applicable local governing body as to health, sanitation, and
 319 safety and ~~shall meet the screening requirements pursuant to ss.~~

Page 11 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

320 ~~402.305 and 402.3055. Failure by a facility to comply with such~~
 321 ~~screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055~~
 322 ~~shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption from~~
 323 ~~licensure.~~

324 (2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the
 325 requirements regarding screening of child care personnel
 326 pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child
 327 care facility that solely provides child care to eligible
 328 children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c). Such facilities must
 329 meet minimum requirements of the applicable local governing body
 330 as to health, sanitation, and safety. Failure by a facility to
 331 comply with screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and
 332 402.3055 shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption
 333 from licensure.

334 (3)(2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply
 335 to a child care facility or family child day care home if the
 336 child care facility or family child day care home has a
 337 certificate issued by the United States Department of Defense or
 338 by the United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has
 339 completed background screening by the United States Department
 340 of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86
 341 and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination.
 342 If the child care facility or family child day care home elects
 343 to serve children ineligible for care under the United States
 344 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care
 345 facility or family child day care home must be licensed under
 346 this chapter.

347 (4)(3) Any child care facility covered by the exemption
 348 under subsection (1) or subsection (2) which desires to be

Page 12 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

349 licensed may submit an application to the department or local
350 licensing agency pursuant to s. 402.308(4).

351 ~~(5)(4)~~ The department and the local licensing agency
352 pursuant to s. 402.308(4) shall adopt rules to administer and
353 implement this section, including, but not limited to, any
354 assessments of previous licensure history.

355 (6) A child care facility exempt under subsection (1) or
356 subsection (2) must include, at a minimum, the following
357 statement on its website, in its promotional materials, and on
358 its facility-created documents and forms provided to families
359 served by the child care facility: "(Child care facility name)
360 is a child care facility operating under an exemption pursuant
361 to the laws of the State of Florida and is not subject to
362 licensure or regulation by the Department of Children and
363 Families."

364 Section 5. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended
365 to read:

366 627.70161 Family child day care and large family child care
367 insurance.-

368 (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
369 family child day care and large family child care homes fulfill
370 a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the
371 intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance
372 coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on
373 the basis of the child family day care services at the
374 residence. The Legislature also recognizes that the potential
375 liability of residential property insurers is substantially
376 increased by the rendition of child care services on the
377 premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a public

586-02453-26

20261690c1

378 need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise in
379 connection with the operation of the family child day care home
380 or the large family child care home are excluded from
381 residential property insurance policies unless they are
382 specifically included in such coverage.

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

384 (a) "Child care" means the care, protection, and
385 supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day
386 on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment,
387 and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or
388 her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is
389 made for care.

390 (b) "Family child day care home" means an occupied
391 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
392 from at least two unrelated families and which receives a
393 payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,
394 whether or not operated for a profit.

395 (c) "Large family child care home" means an occupied
396 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
397 from at least two unrelated families; which receives a payment,
398 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or
399 not operated for profit; and which has at least two full-time
400 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of
401 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be
402 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child
403 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child
404 care home for at least 2 years, with an operator who has held a
405 child development associate credential or its equivalent for at
406 least 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child

586-02453-26

20261690c1

407 care home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the
 408 premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip
 409 with children enrolled in child care, must be included in the
 410 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care
 411 home may provide care for one of the following groups of
 412 children, which must include household children under 13 years
 413 of age:

414 1. A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.

415 2. A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children
 416 under 24 months of age.

417 (3) FAMILY CHILD DAY CARE AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE
 418 HOMES; COVERAGE.—A residential property insurance policy may
 419 ~~shall~~ not provide coverage for liability for claims arising out
 420 of, or in connection with, the operation of a family child day
 421 care home or a large family child care home, and the insurer
 422 shall be under no obligation to defend against lawsuits covering
 423 such claims, unless:

424 (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or

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

427 (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An
 428 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for
 429 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the
 430 policyholder or applicant operates a family child day care home
 431 or a large family child care home. In addition to other lawful
 432 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or
 433 refuse to renew a policy of a family child day care home or a
 434 large family child care home provider if one or more of the
 435 following conditions occur:

Page 15 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

436 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more
 437 children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s.
 438 402.302;

439 (b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a
 440 separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing
 441 liability coverage for the family child day care home or the
 442 large family child care home operations;

443 (c) The policyholder or applicant fails to comply with the
 444 applicable family day care home licensure and registration
 445 requirements specified in chapter 402 s. 402.313; or

446 (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or
 447 omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations
 448 establishing safety standards for family child day care homes or
 449 large family child care homes by the named insured or his or her
 450 representative which materially increase any of the risks
 451 insured.

452 Section 6. Section 1001.24, Florida Statutes, is reenacted
 453 and amended to read:

454 1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property; board
 455 of directors; audit.—

456 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the
 457 term:

458 (a) "Department of Education direct-support organization"
 459 means an organization:

460 1. That is a corporation not for profit that is
 461 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by
 462 the Department of State.

463 2. That is organized and operated exclusively to receive,
 464 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures

Page 16 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

465 to or for the benefit of the state's early learning programs for
 466 children from birth to 5 years of age and public prekindergarten
 467 through 12th grade education in this state.

468 3. That the State Board of Education, after review, has
 469 certified to be operating in a manner consistent with the goals
 470 and best interest of the Department of Education.

471 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or part-time
 472 personnel, as well as payroll processing.

473 (2) USE OF PROPERTY.—The State Board of Education:

474 (a) May permit the use of property, facilities, and
 475 personal services of the department by the direct-support
 476 organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

477 (b) Shall prescribe by rule conditions with which the
 478 direct-support organization must comply in order to use
 479 property, facilities, or personal services of the department.
 480 Such rules shall provide for budget and audit review and for
 481 oversight by the department.

482 (c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or
 483 personal services of the direct-support organization if such
 484 organization does not provide equal employment opportunities to
 485 all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender,
 486 age, or religion.

487 (3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The board of directors of the
 488 department direct-support organization shall be appointed by the
 489 commissioner and shall include representation from business,
 490 industry, and other components of Florida's economy.

491 (4) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each direct-support organization shall
 492 provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.
 493 215.981. The identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous

586-02453-26 20261690c1

494 shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in
 495 the auditor's report. All records of the organization other than
 496 the auditor's report, management letter, and any supplemental
 497 data requested by the Auditor General and the Office of Program
 498 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be
 499 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

500 Section 7. Section 1002.821, Florida Statutes, is created
 501 to read:

502 1002.821 Florida Endowment for Early Learning.—

503 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Florida
 504 Endowment for Early Learning Act."

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

506 (a) "Board" means the board of directors of the Department
 507 of Education direct-support organization under s. 1001.24.

508 (b) "Endowment fund" means an account established within
 509 the Department of Education direct-support organization for the
 510 Division of Early Learning within the department to provide a
 511 continuing and growing source of revenue for the state's early
 512 learning efforts.

513 (c) "Foundation" means the Department of Education direct-
 514 support organization under s. 1001.24.

515 (d) "Operating account" means an account established under
 516 paragraph (4) (c) to carry out the purposes provided in
 517 subsection (6).

518 (3) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
 519 access to high-quality early learning experiences prepares
 520 children for a lifetime of success by fostering foundational
 521 skills in academics, developing executive functioning skills,
 522 and supporting cognitive function. This includes better

586-02453-26

20261690c1

523 preparation for kindergarten, stronger cognitive and problem-
 524 solving abilities, and improved approaches to learning, which
 525 all contribute to greater long-term educational attainment and
 526 career success. However, there is a critical need for
 527 significant additional funding to achieve this goal.
 528 Accordingly, the Legislature further finds and declares that:
 529 (a) With continued support, this state's youngest residents
 530 can have access to high-quality early learning opportunities
 531 that reduce the need for significant long-term educational
 532 interventions and provide the foundational experiences needed
 533 for a child to have success in school and in life.
 534 (b) The purpose of this section is to broaden the
 535 participation and funding potential for further significant
 536 support for access to early-learning opportunities for this
 537 state's youngest learners.
 538 (c) It is appropriate to encourage individual and corporate
 539 support and involvement, as well as state support and
 540 involvement, to promote access to early learning programs for
 541 this state's youngest residents.
 542 (4) REVENUE FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND.—
 543 (a) The Florida Endowment for Early Learning is established
 544 within the Department of Education direct-support organization
 545 under s. 1001.24 to create a long-term, stable, and growing
 546 source of revenue to be administered, in accordance with rules
 547 adopted by the department.
 548 (b) The principal of the endowment fund shall derive from
 549 any legislative appropriations that may be made to the
 550 endowment, and such bequests, gifts, grants, and donations as
 551 may be solicited for such purpose by the foundation from public

Page 19 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

552 or private sources.
 553 (c) The board of directors of the foundation shall
 554 establish the operating account and shall deposit therein the
 555 moneys transmitted. Moneys in the operating account shall be
 556 available to carry out the purposes of subsection (6).
 557 (d) Funds received from state sources shall be accounted
 558 for separately from bequests, gifts, grants, and donations,
 559 which may be solicited for such purposes by the foundation from
 560 public or private sources. Earnings on funds received from state
 561 sources and funds received from public or private sources shall
 562 be accounted for separately.
 563 (5) ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES.—Within the limits
 564 prescribed in this section or by rule of the department:
 565 (a) The board may solicit and receive bequests, gifts,
 566 grants, donations, goods, and services. Where gifts are
 567 restricted as to purpose, they may be used only for the purpose
 568 or purposes stated by the donor. The board may transmit monetary
 569 gifts to the State Board of Administration for deposit in the
 570 endowment fund principal.
 571 (b) The board may enter into contracts with the Federal
 572 Government, state or local agencies, early learning coalitions,
 573 private entities, or individuals to carry out the purposes of
 574 this section.
 575 (c) The board may identify, initiate, and fund new and
 576 creative programs to carry out the purposes of this section,
 577 utilizing existing organizations, early learning coalitions,
 578 associations, and agencies to carry out such early learning
 579 programs and purposes wherever possible.
 580 (d) The board may make gifts or grants to all of the

Page 20 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

581 following:

- 582 1. The state or any political subdivision thereof, or any
 583 public agency of state or local government.
 584 2. An early learning coalition for administration of direct
 585 services to children identified by the board.
 586 3. The division for purposes of program recognition and
 587 marketing, public relations, and education.
 588 (e) The board may advertise and solicit applications for
 589 funding and shall evaluate applications and program proposals
 590 submitted thereto. Funding shall be awarded only where the
 591 evaluation is positive and the proposal meets both the
 592 guidelines for use established in subsection (6) and such
 593 evaluation criteria as the department may prescribe by rule.
 594 (f) The board shall monitor, review, and annually evaluate
 595 funded programs to determine whether funding should be
 596 continued, terminated, reduced, or increased.
 597 (g) The board shall establish an operating account as
 598 provided in paragraph (4)(c).
 599 (h) The board may take additional actions, including the
 600 hiring of necessary staff, as are deemed necessary and
 601 appropriate to administer this section, subject to rules of the
 602 department.
 603 (6) DISTRIBUTION OF MONEYS.—The board shall use the moneys
 604 in the operating account to provide for:
 605 (a) Direct services to children in accordance with an
 606 allocation methodology proposed by the Division of Early
 607 Learning to an early learning coalition approved by the board.
 608 1. A child receiving direct services from an early learning
 609 coalition shall choose from providers under a contract with an

Page 21 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

610 early learning coalition pursuant to s. 1002.88.

- 611 2. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, the early
 612 learning coalition shall apply a parent copay based on family
 613 income pursuant to s. 1002.84(9) or s. 1002.935(2)(b).
 614 3. The early learning coalition shall reimburse a provider
 615 servng a child using direct service funds from the early
 616 learning endowment at the same reimbursement rate allowed
 617 pursuant to s. 1002.84(17)(a).
 618 4. Each early learning coalition providing direct services
 619 must comply with the same administrative requirements under this
 620 part.
 621 (b) Programs designed to support early learning as
 622 identified by donors, gifts, or grants.
 623 Any allocation of funds made for programs pursuant to paragraph
 624 (b) or for advertising or consulting is subject to a competitive
 625 solicitation process. State funds may not be used to fund events
 626 for private sector donors or potential donors or to honor
 627 supporters.
 628 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Division of Early Learning shall
 629 include information in its report of activities pursuant to s.
 630 1002.82(7) summarizing the performance of the endowment fund for
 631 the previous fiscal year, summarizing the foundation's
 632 fundraising activities and performance, and detailing the
 633 activities and programs supported by the endowment principal or
 634 earnings on the endowment principal and the activities and
 635 programs supported by private sources, bequests, gifts, grants,
 636 donations, and other valued goods and services received. The
 637 report must also include all of the following:
 638

Page 22 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

639 (a) Financial data, by service type, including expenditures
 640 for administration and the provision of services by each early
 641 learning coalition.

642 (b) The amount of funds spent on administrative expenses
 643 and fundraising and the amount of funds raised from private
 644 sources.

645 (c) Outcome data, including the number of children served
 646 and any child outcomes.

647 (8) RULES.—The department shall adopt rules to implement
 648 this section.

649 Section 8. Present subsection (2) of section 1002.95,
 650 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (3), and a new
 651 subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

652 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
 653 Scholarship Program.—

654 (2) Subject to an appropriation, the TEACH Scholarship
 655 Program administrator shall also establish and administer the
 656 Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure
 657 alignment of training statewide, including, but not limited to,
 658 a system of training approval, a system of trainer approval, and
 659 implementation of competency-based assessments aligned to the
 660 early learning professional development standards and career
 661 pathways under s. 1002.995.

662 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
 663 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

664 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
 665 child abuse or neglect; exception.—

666 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
 667 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information

586-02453-26

20261690c1

668 with respect to, the reporter which may only be released as
 669 provided in subsection (5), may only be granted to the following
 670 persons, officials, and agencies:

671 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of
 672 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons
 673 with Disabilities, the Agency for Health Care Administration,
 674 the Department of Education, or county agencies responsible for
 675 carrying out:

- 676 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 677 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 678 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 679 4. Healthy Start services;

680 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
 681 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapters 393
 682 and 394, family ~~day~~ child care homes, providers who receive
 683 school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other
 684 homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children;

685 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential group
 686 homes and facilities licensed under chapters 393, 394, and 409;
 687 or

688 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided
 689 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
 690 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

691 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice
 692 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant
 693 to chapters 984 and 985.

694 Section 10. Section 125.0109, Florida Statutes, is amended
 695 to read:
 696

586-02453-26

20261690c1

697 125.0109 Family child day care homes; local zoning
 698 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child day
 699 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the
 700 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid
 701 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,
 702 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of
 703 such family child day care home to obtain any special exemption
 704 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of
 705 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

706 Section 11. Section 166.0445, Florida Statutes, is amended
 707 to read:

708 166.0445 Family child day care homes; local zoning
 709 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child day
 710 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the
 711 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid
 712 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,
 713 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of
 714 such family child day care home to obtain any special exemption
 715 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of
 716 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

717 Section 12. Paragraph (j) of subsection (7) of section
 718 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

719 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and
 720 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the
 721 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the
 722 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following
 723 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this
 724 chapter.

725 (7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS.—Exemptions provided to any

586-02453-26

20261690c1

726 entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is
 727 otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a
 728 representative or employee of the entity by any means,
 729 including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even
 730 when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed
 731 by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by
 732 this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is
 733 otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has
 734 obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department
 735 or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as
 736 required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made
 737 with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this
 738 subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an
 739 exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict
 740 compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and
 741 shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer
 742 this subsection.

743 (j) *Household fuels*.—Also exempt from payment of the tax
 744 imposed by this chapter are sales of utilities to residential
 745 households or owners of residential models in this state by
 746 utility companies who pay the gross receipts tax imposed under
 747 s. 203.01, and sales of fuel to residential households or owners
 748 of residential models, including oil, kerosene, liquefied
 749 petroleum gas, coal, wood, and other fuel products used in the
 750 household or residential model for the purposes of heating,
 751 cooking, lighting, and refrigeration, regardless of whether such
 752 sales of utilities and fuels are separately metered and billed
 753 direct to the residents or are metered and billed to the
 754 landlord. If any part of the utility or fuel is used for a

586-02453-26

20261690c1

755 nonexempt purpose, the entire sale is taxable. The landlord
756 shall provide a separate meter for nonexempt utility or fuel
757 consumption. For the purposes of this paragraph, licensed family
758 child day care homes shall also be exempt.

759 Section 13. Subsections (3), (8), (9), and (11) of section
760 402.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

761 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

762 (3) "Child care personnel" means all owners, operators,
763 employees, and volunteers working in a child care facility. The
764 term does not include persons who work in a child care facility
765 after hours when children are not present or parents of children
766 in a child care facility. For purposes of screening, the term
767 includes any member, over the age of 12 years, of a child care
768 facility operator's family, or person, over the age of 12 years,
769 residing with a child care facility operator if the child care
770 facility is located in or adjacent to the home of the operator
771 or if the family member of, or person residing with, the child
772 care facility operator has any direct contact with the children
773 in the facility during its hours of operation. Members of the
774 operator's family or persons residing with the operator who are
775 between the ages of 12 years and 18 years are not required to be
776 fingerprinted but must be screened for delinquency records. For
777 purposes of screening, the term also includes persons who work
778 in child care programs that provide care for children 15 hours
779 or more each week in public or nonpublic schools, family child
780 day care homes, membership organizations under s. 402.301, or
781 programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does not
782 include public or nonpublic school personnel who are providing
783 care during regular school hours, or after hours for activities

Page 27 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

784 related to a school's program for grades kindergarten through
785 12. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less
786 than 10 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel"
787 for the purposes of screening and training if a person who meets
788 the screening requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and
789 has the volunteer in his or her line of sight. Students who
790 observe and participate in a child care facility as a part of
791 their required coursework are not considered child care
792 personnel, provided such observation and participation are on an
793 intermittent basis and a person who meets the screening
794 requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has the
795 student in his or her line of sight.

796 (8) "Family child day care home" means an occupied
797 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
798 from at least two unrelated families and which receives a
799 payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,
800 whether or not operated for profit. Household children under 13
801 years of age, when on the premises of the family child day care
802 home or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care,
803 shall be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home.
804 A family child day care home shall be allowed to provide care
805 for one of the following groups of children, which shall include
806 household children under 13 years of age:

807 (a) A maximum of four children from birth to 12 months of
808 age.

809 (b) A maximum of three children from birth to 12 months of
810 age, and other children, for a maximum total of six children.

811 (c) A maximum of six preschool children if all are older
812 than 12 months of age.

Page 28 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

813 (d) A maximum of 10 children if no more than 5 are
 814 preschool age and, of those 5, no more than 2 are under 12
 815 months of age.

816 (9) "Household children" means children who are related by
 817 blood, marriage, or legal adoption to, or who are the legal
 818 wards of, the family child day care home operator, the large
 819 family child care home operator, or an adult household member
 820 who permanently or temporarily resides in the home. Supervision
 821 of the operator's household children shall be left to the
 822 discretion of the operator unless those children receive
 823 subsidized child care through the school readiness program
 824 pursuant to s. 1002.92 to be in the home.

825 (11) "Large family child care home" means an occupied
 826 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
 827 from at least two unrelated families, which receives a payment,
 828 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or
 829 not operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time
 830 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of
 831 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be
 832 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child
 833 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child
 834 ~~day~~ care home for 2 years, with an operator who has had a child
 835 development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year,
 836 before seeking licensure as a large family child care home.
 837 Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises
 838 of the large family child care home or on a field trip with
 839 children enrolled in child care, shall be included in the
 840 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care
 841 home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following

Page 29 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

842 groups of children, which shall include household children under
 843 13 years of age:

844 (a) A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.
 845 (b) A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children
 846 under 24 months of age.

847 Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (17) of section
 848 402.305, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 849 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—
 850 (17) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.—
 851 (a) One week prior to the transfer of ownership of a child
 852 care facility or family child day care home, the transferor
 853 shall notify the parent or caretaker of each child of the
 854 impending transfer.

855 Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section
 856 402.309, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 857 402.309 Provisional license or registration.—
 858 (1) The local licensing agency or the department, whichever
 859 is authorized to license child care facilities in a county, may
 860 issue a provisional license for child care facilities, family
 861 child day care homes, or large family child care homes, or a
 862 provisional registration for family child day care homes to
 863 applicants for an initial license or registration or to
 864 licensees or registrants seeking a renewal who are unable to
 865 meet all the standards provided for in ss. 402.301-402.319.
 866 (2) A provisional license or registration may not be issued
 867 unless the operator or owner makes adequate provisions for the
 868 health and safety of the child. A provisional license may be
 869 issued for a child care facility if all of the screening
 870 materials have been timely submitted. A provisional license or

Page 30 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

871 registration may not be issued unless the child care facility,
872 family child day care home, or large family child care home is
873 in compliance with the requirements for screening of child care
874 personnel in ss. 402.305, 402.3055, 402.313, and 402.3131,
875 respectively.

876 (3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a local licensing
877 agency or the department, whichever is authorized to license
878 child care facilities in a county, must issue a provisional
879 license or registration if the operator or owner:

880 (a) Is applying for an initial license or registration for
881 a child care facility, a family child day care home, or a large
882 family child care home;

883 (b) Has made adequate provisions for the health and safety
884 of the child; and

885 (c) Provides evidence that he or she has completed, within
886 the previous 6 months, training pursuant to United States
887 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02 and background
888 screening by the United States Department of Defense pursuant to
889 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86 and received a
890 favorable suitability and fitness determination.

891 Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsection
892 (4) of section 402.310, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

893 402.310 Disciplinary actions; hearings upon denial,
894 suspension, or revocation of license or registration;
895 administrative fines.—

896 (1)

897 (d) The disciplinary sanctions ~~set forth~~ in this section
898 apply to licensed child care facilities, licensed large family
899 child care homes, and licensed or registered family child day

586-02453-26 20261690c1

900 care homes.

901 (4) An applicant, registrant, or licensee shall have the
902 right to appeal a decision of the local licensing agency to a
903 representative of the department. Any required hearing shall be
904 held in the county in which the child care facility, family
905 child day care home, or large family child care home is being
906 operated or is to be established. The hearing shall be conducted
907 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 120.

908 Section 17. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection
909 (2) of section 402.3115, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

910 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
911 inspections; abbreviated inspections.—

912 (1) The Department of Children and Families and local
913 governmental agencies that license child care facilities shall
914 develop and implement a plan to eliminate duplicative and
915 unnecessary inspections of child care facilities, family child
916 day care homes, and large family child care homes.

917 (2) (a) The department and the local governmental agencies
918 shall develop and implement an abbreviated inspection plan for
919 child care facilities, family child day care homes, and large
920 family child care homes that meet all of the following
921 conditions:

- 922 1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years.
- 923 2. Have not had a Class 1 deficiency, as defined by rule,
924 for at least 2 consecutive years.
- 925 3. Have not had more than three of the same Class 2
926 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive
927 years.
- 928 4. Have received at least two full onsite renewal

586-02453-26 20261690c1

929 inspections in the most recent 2 years.

930 5. Do not have any current uncorrected violations.

931 6. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active

932 child protective services investigations.

933 Section 18. Section 402.312, Florida Statutes, is amended

934 to read:

935 402.312 License required; injunctive relief.—

936 (1) The operation of a child care facility without a

937 license, a family child day care home without a license or

938 registration, or a large family child care home without a

939 license is prohibited. If the department or the local licensing

940 agency discovers that a child care facility is being operated

941 without a license, a family child day care home is being

942 operated without a license or registration, or a large family

943 child care home is being operated without a license, the

944 department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an

945 injunction in the circuit court where the facility is located to

946 enjoin continued operation of such facility, family child day

947 care home, or large family child care home. When the court is

948 closed for the transaction of judicial business, the department

949 or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an emergency

950 injunction to enjoin continued operation of such unlicensed

951 facility, unregistered or unlicensed family child day care home,

952 or unlicensed large family child care home, which injunction

953 shall be continued, modified, or revoked on the next day of

954 judicial business.

955 (2) Other grounds for seeking an injunction to close a

956 child care facility, family child day care home, or a large

957 family child care home are that:

586-02453-26 20261690c1

958 (a) There is any violation of the standards applied under

959 ss. 402.301-402.319 which threatens harm to any child in the

960 child care facility, a family child day care home, or large

961 family child care home.

962 (b) A licensee or registrant has repeatedly violated the

963 standards provided for under ss. 402.301-402.319.

964 (c) A child care facility, family child day care home, or

965 large family child care home continues to have children in

966 attendance after the closing date established by the department

967 or the local licensing agency.

968 (3) The department or local licensing agency may impose an

969 administrative fine on any child care facility, family child day

970 care home, or large family child care home operating without a

971 license or registration, consistent with ~~the provisions of s.~~

972 402.310.

973 Section 19. Subsection (3) of section 402.315, Florida

974 Statutes, is amended to read:

975 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

976 (3) The department shall collect a fee for any license it

977 issues for a child care facility, family child day care home, or

978 large family child care home pursuant to ss. 402.305, 402.313,

979 and 402.3131.

980 (a) For a child care facility licensed pursuant to s.

981 402.305, such fee shall be \$1 per child, based on the licensed

982 capacity of the facility, except that the minimum fee shall be

983 \$25 per facility and the maximum fee shall be \$100 per facility.

984 (b) For a family child day care home registered pursuant to

985 s. 402.313, such fee shall be \$25.

986 (c) For a family child day care home licensed pursuant to

586-02453-26 20261690c1

987 s. 402.313, such fee shall be \$50.
 988 (d) For a large family child care home licensed pursuant to
 989 s. 402.3131, such fee shall be \$60.
 990 Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 402.316, Florida
 991 Statutes, is amended to read:
 992 402.316 Exemptions.—
 993 (2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply to a
 994 child care facility or family child day care home if the child
 995 care facility or family child day care home has a certificate
 996 issued by the United States Department of Defense or by the
 997 United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has
 998 completed background screening by the United States Department
 999 of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86
 1000 and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination.
 1001 If the child care facility or family child day care home elects
 1002 to serve children ineligible for care under the United States
 1003 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care
 1004 facility or family child day care home must be licensed under
 1005 this chapter.
 1006 Section 21. Section 402.318, Florida Statutes, is amended
 1007 to read:
 1008 402.318 Advertisement.—A person, as defined in s. 1.01(3),
 1009 may not advertise a child care facility, family child day care
 1010 home, or large family child care home without including within
 1011 such advertisement the state or local agency license number or
 1012 registration number of such facility or home. Violation of this
 1013 section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
 1014 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.
 1015 Section 22. Section 402.319, Florida Statutes, is amended

586-02453-26 20261690c1

1016 to read:
 1017 402.319 Penalties.—
 1018 (1) It is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
 1019 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any person knowingly
 1020 to:
 1021 (a) Fail, by false statement, misrepresentation,
 1022 impersonation, or other fraudulent means, to disclose in any
 1023 application for voluntary or paid employment or licensure
 1024 regulated under ss. 402.301-402.318 all information required
 1025 under those sections or a material fact used in making a
 1026 determination as to such person's qualifications to be child
 1027 care personnel, as defined in s. 402.302, in a child care
 1028 facility, family child day care home, or other child care
 1029 program.
 1030 (b) Operate or attempt to operate a child care facility
 1031 without having procured a license as required by this act.
 1032 (c) Operate or attempt to operate a family child day care
 1033 home without a license or without registering with the
 1034 department, whichever is applicable.
 1035 (d) Operate or attempt to operate a child care facility or
 1036 family child day care home under a license that is suspended,
 1037 revoked, or terminated.
 1038 (e) Misrepresent, by act or omission, a child care facility
 1039 or family child day care home to be duly licensed pursuant to
 1040 this act without being so licensed.
 1041 (f) Make any other misrepresentation, by act or omission,
 1042 regarding the licensure or operation of a child care facility or
 1043 family child day care home to a parent or guardian who has a
 1044 child placed in the facility or is inquiring as to placing a

586-02453-26 20261690c1

1045 child in the facility, or to a representative of the licensing
 1046 authority, or to a representative of a law enforcement agency,
 1047 including, but not limited to, any misrepresentation as to:

1048 1. The number of children at the child care facility or the
 1049 family child day care home;

1050 2. The part of the child care facility or family child day
 1051 care home designated for child care;

1052 3. The qualifications or credentials of child care
 1053 personnel;

1054 4. Whether a family child day care home or child care
 1055 facility complies with the screening requirements of s. 402.305;
 1056 or

1057 5. Whether child care personnel have the training as
 1058 required by s. 402.305.

1059 (2) If any child care personnel makes any misrepresentation
 1060 in violation of this section to a parent or guardian who has
 1061 placed a child in the child care facility or family child day
 1062 care home, and the parent or guardian relied upon the
 1063 misrepresentation, and the child suffers great bodily harm,
 1064 permanent disfigurement, permanent disability, or death as a
 1065 result of an intentional act or negligence by the child care
 1066 personnel, then the child care personnel commits a felony of the
 1067 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,
 1068 or s. 775.084.

1069 (3) Each child care facility, family child day care home,
 1070 and large family child care home shall annually submit an
 1071 affidavit of compliance with s. 39.201.

1072 Section 23. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
 1073 409.988, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

Page 37 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

1074 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
 1075 provisions.—

1076 (2) LICENSURE.—

1077 (c) Substitute care providers who are licensed under s.

1078 409.175 and who have contracted with a lead agency are also
 1079 authorized to provide registered or licensed family child day
 1080 care under s. 402.313 if such care is consistent with federal
 1081 law and if the home has met the requirements of s. 402.313.

1082 Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section
 1083 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1084 411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.—The Department
 1085 of Education and the Department of Health shall utilize the
 1086 continuum of prevention and early assistance services for high-
 1087 risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children
 1088 and their families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for
 1089 the intraagency and interagency program coordination,
 1090 monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter. The continuum
 1091 shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for
 1092 services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and
 1093 handicapped children and their families, and may be expanded or
 1094 reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those services.
 1095 Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be determined by
 1096 intraagency or interagency findings and agreement, whichever is
 1097 applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall be based upon
 1098 applicable eligibility criteria, availability of resources, and
 1099 interagency prioritization when programs impact both agencies,
 1100 or upon single agency prioritization when programs impact only
 1101 one agency. The continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

1102 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND PARENTS

Page 38 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

1103 OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.—

1104 (b) Child care and early childhood programs, including, but
 1105 not limited to, licensed child care facilities, family child day
 1106 care homes, therapeutic child care, Head Start, and preschool
 1107 programs in public and private schools.

1108 Section 25. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 1109 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1110 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
 1111 private prekindergarten providers.—

1112 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
 1113 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
 1114 following requirements:

1115 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
 1116 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family child day care
 1117 home licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home
 1118 licensed under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from
 1119 licensure under s. 402.3025(2), faith-based child care provider
 1120 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, child development
 1121 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and
 1122 operates on a military installation that is certified by the
 1123 United States Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten
 1124 provider that has been issued a provisional license under s.
 1125 402.309. A private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the
 1126 program while holding a probation-status license under s.
 1127 402.310.

1128 Section 26. Paragraph (u) of subsection (2) of section
 1129 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1130 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

1131 (2) The department shall:

Page 39 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

1132 (u) Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to provide
 1133 assistance and consultation to child care facilities and family
 1134 child day care homes regarding health, developmental,
 1135 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
 1136 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
 1137 special needs. The department shall:

1138 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family child
 1139 day care homes of the availability of this service through the
 1140 child care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

1141 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line to
 1142 maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning coalition
 1143 service area.

1144 Section 27. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of section
 1145 1002.83, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1146 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

1147 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the
 1148 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
 1149 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
 1150 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
 1151 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
 1152 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of
 1153 such members may serve as a voting member:

1154 (j) A representative of private for-profit child care
 1155 providers, including private for-profit family child day care
 1156 homes.

1157 Section 28. Subsection (4) of section 1002.84, Florida
 1158 Statutes, is amended to read:

1159 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
 1160 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

Page 40 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

1161 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the
 1162 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u). Regional Warm-Line
 1163 staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when requested,
 1164 to assist child care facilities and family ~~child day~~ care homes
 1165 with inquiries relating to the strategies, curriculum, and
 1166 environmental adaptations the child care facilities and family
 1167 ~~child day~~ care homes may need as they serve children with
 1168 disabilities and other special needs.

1169 Section 29. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of
 1170 section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1171 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;
 1172 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

1173 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness program,
 1174 a school readiness program provider must:

1175 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a
 1176 family ~~child day~~ care home licensed or registered under s.
 1177 402.313, a large family child care home licensed under s.
 1178 402.3131, a public school or nonpublic school exempt from
 1179 licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider
 1180 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or
 1181 after-school program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child
 1182 development program that is accredited by a national accrediting
 1183 body and operates on a military installation that is certified
 1184 by the United States Department of Defense, an informal child
 1185 care provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care
 1186 and Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States
 1187 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.
 1188 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license
 1189 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program

Page 41 of 48

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586-02453-26

20261690c1

1190 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1191 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and
 1192 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate
 1193 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness
 1194 program.

1195 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.
 1196 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as
 1197 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

1198 2. For a provider that is a registered family ~~child day~~
 1199 care home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the
 1200 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this
 1201 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this
 1202 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the
 1203 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist
 1204 adopted by the department prominently on its premises in plain
 1205 sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit the
 1206 checklist to its local early learning coalition.

1207 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a
 1208 national accrediting body and operates on a military
 1209 installation that is certified by the United States Department
 1210 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual
 1211 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense
 1212 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

1213 Section 30. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
 1214 1002.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1215 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness program
 1216 market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

1217 (2) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by
 1218 provider type, including, but not limited to:

Page 42 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

1219 (c) Family child day care homes licensed or registered
 1220 under s. 402.313.

1221 Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsection
 1222 (4) of section 1002.92, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1223 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
 1224 referral.—

1225 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall provide
 1226 the following services:

1227 (a) Identification of existing public and private child
 1228 care and early childhood education services, including child
 1229 care services by public and private employers, and the
 1230 development of an early learning provider performance profile of
 1231 those services through the single statewide information system
 1232 developed by the department under s. 1002.82(2)(q). These
 1233 services may include family child day care, public and private
 1234 child care programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 1235 Program, Head Start, the school readiness program, special
 1236 education programs for prekindergarten children with
 1237 disabilities, services for children with developmental
 1238 disabilities, full-time and part-time programs, before-school
 1239 and after-school programs, and vacation care programs. The early
 1240 learning provider performance profile shall include, but not be
 1241 limited to:

- 1242 1. Type of program.
- 1243 2. Hours of service.
- 1244 3. Ages of children served.
- 1245 4. Number of children served.
- 1246 5. Program information.
- 1247 6. Fees and eligibility for services.

Page 43 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

1248 7. Availability of transportation.

1249 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if
 1250 applicable.

1251 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.

1252 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
 1253 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68
 1254 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,
 1255 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,
 1256 if applicable.

1257 11. The school readiness program assessment composite score
 1258 and program assessment care level composite score results
 1259 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and
 1260 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

1261 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,
 1262 if applicable.

1263 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a
 1264 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the
 1265 curriculum, if applicable.

1266 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment
 1267 under s. 1002.82.

1268 (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and
 1269 licensed and registered family child day care homes must provide
 1270 the statewide child care and resource and referral network with
 1271 the following information annually:

- 1272 (a) Type of program.
- 1273 (b) Hours of service.
- 1274 (c) Ages of children served.
- 1275 (d) Fees and eligibility for services.

1276 Section 32. Subsection (2) of section 1002.93, Florida

Page 44 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

1277 Statutes, is amended to read:

1278 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

1279 (2) The transportation servicers may only provide
 1280 transportation to each child participating in the school
 1281 readiness program to the extent that such transportation is
 1282 necessary to provide child care opportunities that otherwise
 1283 would not be available to a child whose home is more than a
 1284 reasonable walking distance from the nearest child care facility
 1285 or family child day care home.

1286 Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a)
 1287 and (c) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section
 1288 1002.945, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1289 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

1290 (1)

1291 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home, or
 1292 family child day care home that is accredited by an accrediting
 1293 association approved by the Department of Education under
 1294 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon
 1295 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal
 1296 Quality Care" designation.

1297 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the Department of
 1298 Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care
 1299 Program, an accrediting association must apply to the department
 1300 and demonstrate that it:

- 1301 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.
- 1302 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or
 1303 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state
 1304 board under subsection (2).
- 1305 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of

Page 45 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

1306 State.

1307 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation
 1308 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:

1309 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care provider
 1310 must meet before beginning the accreditation process. However,
 1311 accreditation may not be granted to a child care facility, large
 1312 family child care home, or family child day care home before the
 1313 site is operational and is attended by children.

1314 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and
 1315 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom
 1316 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

1317 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to ensure
 1318 inter-rater reliability.

1319 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring
 1320 each accredited child care facility, large family child care
 1321 home, and family child day care home to file an annual report
 1322 with the accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing
 1323 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family
 1324 child care homes, and family child day care homes.

1325 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to
 1326 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-
 1327 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by
 1328 the accrediting association.

1329 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite
 1330 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

1331 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation
 1332 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of
 1333 facilities.

1334 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the

Page 46 of 48

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586-02453-26 20261690c1

1335 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a
 1336 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including
 1337 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and
 1338 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if
 1339 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

1340 (c) If an accrediting association has granted accreditation
 1341 to a child care facility, large family child care home, or
 1342 family child day care under fraudulent terms or failed to
 1343 conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall
 1344 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under
 1345 subsection (6).

1346 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold
 1347 Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large family
 1348 child care home, or family child day care home must meet the
 1349 following additional criteria:

1350 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I
 1351 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and
 1352 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for
 1353 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
 1354 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the
 1355 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
 1356 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

1357 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or more
 1358 of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the
 1359 Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years
 1360 preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality
 1361 Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II
 1362 violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for
 1363 termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care

586-02453-26 20261690c1

1364 provider until the provider has no class II violations that are
 1365 the same for a period of 1 year.

1366 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for
 1367 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the
 1368 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and
 1369 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of
 1370 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for
 1371 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
 1372 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to
 1373 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be
 1374 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal
 1375 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III
 1376 violations for a period of 1 year.

1377 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of
 1378 Education determines through a formal process that a provider
 1379 has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class
 1380 I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state
 1381 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care
 1382 status. The state board's determination regarding such
 1383 provider's status is final.

1384 Section 34. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: KB 412

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

Judge:

Started: 2/10/2026 3:01:36 PM

Ends: 2/10/2026 3:18:58 PM

Length: 00:17:22

3:01:37 PM Order
3:01:40 PM Roll call
3:01:57 PM Chair Simon gives introductory comments
3:02:11 PM Tab 2: SB 1318
3:02:16 PM Chair Simon recognizes Sen Rodriguez to explain the bill
3:02:18 PM Sen Rodriguez
3:02:44 PM Chair Simon
3:02:57 PM Roll call
3:03:12 PM Chair Simon reports on SB 1318
3:03:23 PM Tab 3: CS/SB 1690
3:03:29 PM Chair Simon recognizes Sen Calatayud to explain the bill
3:03:33 PM Sen Calatayud
3:04:02 PM Chair Simon recognizes Sen Calatayud to explain am. 663670
3:04:05 PM Sen Calatayud
3:04:31 PM Chair Simon reports on the am.
3:04:54 PM Questions:
3:04:56 PM Sen Berman
3:05:22 PM Sen Calatayud
3:05:40 PM Sen Berman
3:06:00 PM Chair Simon
3:06:23 PM Roll call
3:06:44 PM Chair Simon reports on CS/CS/SB 1690
3:06:56 PM Recess
3:06:58 PM Recording Paused
3:11:59 PM Recording Resumed
3:12:18 PM Tab 1: SB 182
3:12:27 PM Chair Simon recognizes Sen Jones to explain am. 779178
3:12:43 PM Sen Jones
3:13:40 PM Chair Simon reports on the am.
3:14:01 PM Chair Simon acknowledges waive speaking
3:14:24 PM Chair Simon recognizes Sen Jones to close on the bill
3:14:26 PM Sen Jones
3:15:08 PM Roll call
3:15:20 PM Chair Simon reports on CS/SB 182
3:15:38 PM Chair Simon
3:18:11 PM Sen Davis moves to record votes for all tabs in the affirmative
3:18:34 PM Sen Gaetz moves to record vote for tab 2 in the affirmative
3:18:41 PM Sen Calatayud moves to record vote for tab 3 in the affirmative
3:18:53 PM Adjournment