

HB 487

2009

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to prekindergarten education; amending s.
 3 1002.65, F.S.; providing legislative findings; requiring
 4 that prekindergarten instructors meet certain educational
 5 goals by a specified period; providing an effective date.

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

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 9 Section 1. Section 1002.65, Florida Statutes, is amended
 10 to read:

11 1002.65 Professional credentials of prekindergarten
 12 instructors; ~~aspirational~~ goals; legislative intent.--

13 (1) The Legislature recognizes that there is a strong
 14 relationship between the skills and preparation of
 15 prekindergarten instructors and the educational outcomes of
 16 students in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

17 (2) The Legislature finds that high-quality
 18 prekindergarten programs taught by teachers who hold degrees
 19 reduce state spending on K-12 remediation, child welfare, and
 20 the criminal justice system. The Legislature also finds that
 21 investments in high-quality prekindergarten programs are
 22 effective public policy strategies for generating wealth and
 23 achieving a multitude of social and economic development.

24 (3) ~~(2)~~ To improve these educational outcomes, the
 25 Legislature intends that all prekindergarten instructors shall
 26 ~~will~~ continue to improve their skills and preparation through
 27 education and training, so that the following ~~aspirational~~ goals
 28 are will be achieved:

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29 (a) By the 2010-2011 school year:

30 1. Each prekindergarten class shall ~~will~~ have at least one
31 prekindergarten instructor who holds an associate's or higher
32 degree in the field of early childhood education or child
33 development; and

34 2. For each prekindergarten class composed of 11 or more
35 students, in addition to a prekindergarten instructor who meets
36 the requirements of subparagraph 1., the class shall ~~will~~ have
37 at least one prekindergarten instructor who meets the
38 requirements of s. 1002.55(3)(c).

39 (b) By the 2013-2014 school year, each prekindergarten
40 class shall ~~will~~ have at least one prekindergarten instructor
41 who holds a bachelor's or higher degree in the field of early
42 childhood education or child development.

43 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.