

By the Committee on Finance and Tax; and Senator Grall

593-03757-23

2023990c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to child care and early learning  
3           providers; amending s. 402.302, F.S.; defining the  
4           term "preschool"; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; revising  
5           licensing standards for all licensed child care  
6           facilities; revising minimum standards and training  
7           requirements for child care personnel; requiring the  
8           Department of Children and Families to conduct  
9           specified screening of child care personnel within a  
10          specified timeframe and issue provisional approval of  
11          such personnel; requiring the department to evaluate  
12          certain training and coursework requirements for child  
13          care personnel and the licensing and regulation of  
14          child care facilities by a specified date; deleting  
15          provisions relating to educating parents about the  
16          importance of specified immunizations, addressing the  
17          danger of a child being accidentally left in an  
18          adult's vehicle, having a plan to assist children in  
19          preventing and avoiding physical and mental abuse, and  
20          the department developing minimum standards for  
21          specialized child care facilities for the care of  
22          mildly ill children; amending s. 402.3115, F.S.;  
23          requiring the department and certain local  
24          governmental agencies to develop and implement a plan  
25          to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary inspections  
26          of home child care providers; revising abbreviated  
27          inspection requirements for certain child care  
28          facilities; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.; revising  
29          legislative purpose and intent; revising the

593-03757-23

2023990c1

30 definitions of the terms "child care" and "family day  
31 care home"; providing that residential property  
32 insurance does not cover liability or claims arising  
33 out of the operation of a large family child care  
34 home; amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; revising requirements  
35 for private prekindergarten providers; amending s.  
36 1002.61, F.S.; revising requirements for public school  
37 and private summer prekindergarten program providers;  
38 amending s. 1002.67, F.S.; prohibiting certain  
39 education providers' curriculums from using  
40 coordinated screening; prohibiting progress monitoring  
41 systems from including the student use of electronic  
42 devices; providing an exception; amending s. 1002.68,  
43 F.S.; requiring program assessments of private  
44 prekindergarten providers and public schools in the  
45 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program to be  
46 conducted when a specified number of students are in  
47 attendance beginning in a specified program year;  
48 requiring the specified methodology for calculating  
49 the performance of each private prekindergarten  
50 provider and public school provider to include an  
51 analysis conducted by an independent expert with  
52 specified experience beginning in a specified program  
53 year; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; providing  
54 requirements for early learning coalitions retention  
55 and expenditure of specified funds; amending s.  
56 1002.82, F.S.; revising the powers and duties of the  
57 Department of Education relating to the administration  
58 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust

593-03757-23

2023990c1

59 Fund; amending s. 1002.83, F.S.; revising a provision  
60 relating to the appointment of members of an early  
61 learning coalition; amending s. 1002.89, F.S.;  
62 providing for specified financial support to child  
63 care providers and staff to be included in school  
64 readiness program costs; amending s. 1002.945, F.S.;  
65 revising requirements for a child care provider to  
66 obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold Seal  
67 Quality Care provider; amending s. 1002.95, F.S.;  
68 requiring early learning coalitions to provide  
69 specified support to a specified scholarship program;  
70 amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; revising reading  
71 intervention requirements for Voluntary  
72 Prekindergarten Education Program students; amending  
73 ss. 39.101, 1002.57, and 1002.59, F.S.; conforming  
74 cross-references; providing an effective date.  
75

76 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
77

78 Section 1. Present subsections (15) through (18) of section  
79 402.302, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (16)  
80 through (19), respectively, and a new subsection (15) is added  
81 to that section, to read:

82 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:  
83 (15) "Preschool" means any child care facility licensed  
84 under s. 402.305 that serves children under 5 years of age.

85 Section 2. Present paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of  
86 section 402.305, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph  
87 (f), present subsection (18) is redesignated as subsection (17),

593-03757-23

2023990c1

88 and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a) and  
 89 (e) and present paragraph (f) of subsection (2), paragraph (a)  
 90 of subsection (7), paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (9),  
 91 subsection (13), and present subsection (17) of that section are  
 92 amended, to read:

93 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

94 (1) LICENSING STANDARDS.—The department shall establish  
 95 licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must  
 96 meet regardless of the origin or source of the fees used to  
 97 operate the facility or the type of children served by the  
 98 facility.

99 (a) The standards shall be designed to address the  
 100 ~~following areas:~~

101 ~~1. the health, sanitation, safety, and sanitary adequate~~  
 102 ~~physical conditions surroundings for all children served by in~~  
 103 ~~child care facilities.~~

104 ~~2. The health and nutrition of all children in child care.~~

105 ~~3. The child development needs of all children in child~~  
 106 ~~care.~~

107 (b) Fire safety regulations for child care facilities will  
 108 be directed ~~All standards established under ss. 402.301-402.319~~  
 109 ~~must be consistent with the rules adopted by the State Fire~~  
 110 ~~Marshal for child care facilities.~~ However, if the facility is  
 111 operated in a public school, the department must ~~shall~~ use the  
 112 public school fire code, as provided in the rules of the State  
 113 Board of Education, as the minimum standard for firesafety.

114 (2) PERSONNEL.—Minimum standards for child care personnel  
 115 shall include minimum requirements as to:

116 (a) Good moral character based upon screening as defined in

593-03757-23

2023990c1

117 s. 402.302 ~~s. 402.302(15)~~. This screening shall be conducted as  
118 provided in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for  
119 screening provided ~~set forth~~ in that chapter, and include  
120 employment history checks, a search of criminal history records,  
121 sexual predator and sexual offender registries, and child abuse  
122 and neglect registry of any state in which the current or  
123 prospective child care personnel resided during the preceding 5  
124 years. The department shall complete the screening and provide  
125 the results to the child care facility within 5 business days.  
126 If the department is unable to complete the screening within 5  
127 business days, the department must issue the current or  
128 prospective child care personnel a 45-day provisional hire  
129 status while all required information is being requested and the  
130 department is awaiting results. During the 45-day period, the  
131 current or prospective child care personnel must be under the  
132 direct supervision of a screened and trained staff member when  
133 in contact with children.

134 (e) Minimum training requirements for child care personnel.

135 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that  
136 all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour  
137 introductory course in child care, which course covers ~~at least~~  
138 the following topic areas:

139 a. State and local rules and regulations which govern child  
140 care.

141 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

142 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

143 d. Child development, including typical and atypical  
144 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills  
145 development.

593-03757-23

2023990c1

146 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using  
147 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to  
148 determine the child's developmental age level.

149 f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for  
150 professional and classroom use and early literacy and language  
151 development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as  
152 determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care  
153 personnel of a child care facility.

154 g. Developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum  
155 disorder and Down syndrome, and early identification, use of  
156 available state and local resources, classroom integration, and  
157 positive behavioral supports for children with developmental  
158 disabilities.

159 h. Online training coursework, provided at no cost by the  
160 department, to meet minimum training standards for child care  
161 personnel.

162  
163 Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall  
164 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care  
165 personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1  
166 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by  
167 passage of an in-person or online a competency examination.

168 Successful completion of the 40-clock-hour introductory course  
169 shall articulate into community college credit in early  
170 childhood education, pursuant to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25.

171 Exemption from all or a portion of the required training shall  
172 be granted to child care personnel based upon educational  
173 credentials or passage of competency examinations. Child care  
174 personnel possessing a 2-year degree or higher that includes 6

593-03757-23

2023990c1

175 college credit hours in early childhood development or child  
176 growth and development, or a child development associate  
177 credential or an equivalent state-approved child development  
178 associate credential, or a child development associate waiver  
179 certificate shall be automatically exempted from the training  
180 requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and e.

181 ~~2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to~~  
182 ~~the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study~~  
183 ~~of children.~~

184 2.3. The introductory course shall cover recognition and  
185 prevention of shaken baby syndrome; prevention of sudden infant  
186 death syndrome; recognition and care of infants and toddlers  
187 with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum  
188 disorder and Down syndrome; and early childhood brain  
189 development within the topic areas identified in this paragraph.

190 ~~3.4.~~ On an annual basis in order to further their child  
191 care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child  
192 care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child  
193 care training shall be required to take an additional 1  
194 continuing education unit of approved inservice training, or 10  
195 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the  
196 department.

197 ~~4.5.~~ Child care personnel shall be required to complete 0.5  
198 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours  
199 of equivalent training, as determined by the department, in  
200 early literacy and language development of children from birth  
201 to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is  
202 completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or  
203 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 3.

593-03757-23

2023990c1

204 ~~4.~~

205 ~~5.6.~~ Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified  
206 child care professionals to provide training of child care  
207 personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the  
208 minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community  
209 child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be  
210 contracted by the department to coordinate such training when  
211 possible. Other district educational resources, such as  
212 community colleges and career programs, can be designated in  
213 such areas where central agencies may not exist or are  
214 determined not to have the capability to meet the coordination  
215 requirements set forth by the department.

216 ~~6.7.~~ Training requirements do ~~shall~~ not apply to certain  
217 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not  
218 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance  
219 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

220 ~~7.8.~~ By December 31, 2023, the department shall evaluate or  
221 contract for an evaluation of:

222 a. The current training requirements and coursework offered  
223 to child care personnel and make recommendations to increase the  
224 quality and relevancy of training.

225 b. The licensing and regulation of child care facilities  
226 to:

227 (I) Identify rules that exceed specific delegated  
228 legislative authority.

229 (II) Identify rules that are arbitrary, vague, or  
230 redundant.

231 (III) Streamline the standards used to classify violations  
232 and eliminate redundancy or subjectivity in application by



593-03757-23

2023990c1

233 licensing counselors.

234 8. When the evaluation in subparagraph 7. is completed, the  
235 department shall begin revising the regulation of child care  
236 facilities to simplify ongoing licensure inspections, increase  
237 objectivity, and provide a greater emphasis on technical  
238 assistance. The evaluation shall be conducted every 5 years for  
239 ~~the general purpose of determining the status of and means to~~  
240 ~~improve staff training requirements and testing procedures. The~~  
241 ~~evaluation shall be conducted every 2 years. The evaluation~~  
242 ~~shall include, but not be limited to, determining the~~  
243 ~~availability, quality, scope, and sources of current staff~~  
244 ~~training; determining the need for specialty training; and~~  
245 ~~determining ways to increase inservice training and ways to~~  
246 ~~increase the accessibility, quality, and cost effectiveness of~~  
247 ~~current and proposed staff training. The evaluation methodology~~  
248 ~~shall include a reliable and valid survey of child care~~  
249 ~~personnel.~~

250 9. The child care operator shall be required to take basic  
251 training in serving children with disabilities within 5 years  
252 after employment, either as a part of the introductory training  
253 or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

254 ~~(f) Periodic health examinations.~~

255 (7) SANITATION AND SAFETY.—

256 (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for  
257 sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency  
258 procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The  
259 minimum standards shall require that two ~~at least one~~ staff  
260 persons ~~person~~ trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as  
261 evidenced by current documentation of course completion, must be

593-03757-23

2023990c1

262 present at all times that children are present.

263 (9) ADMISSIONS AND RECORDKEEPING.—

264 ~~(b) During the months of August and September of each year,~~  
265 ~~each child care facility shall provide parents of children~~  
266 ~~enrolled in the facility detailed information regarding the~~  
267 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~  
268 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~  
269 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~  
270 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~  
271 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

272 ~~(c) During the months of April and September of each year,~~  
273 ~~at a minimum, each facility shall provide parents of children~~  
274 ~~enrolled in the facility information regarding the potential for~~  
275 ~~a distracted adult to fail to drop off a child at the facility~~  
276 ~~and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival~~  
277 ~~at the adult's destination. The child care facility shall also~~  
278 ~~give parents information about resources with suggestions to~~  
279 ~~avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or~~  
280 ~~brochure with this information that shall be posted to the~~  
281 ~~department's website, which child care facilities may choose to~~  
282 ~~reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of~~  
283 ~~this paragraph.~~

284 (13) PLAN OF ACTIVITIES.—Minimum standards shall ensure  
285 that each child care facility has and implements a written plan  
286 for the daily provision of varied activities and active and  
287 quiet play opportunities appropriate to the age of the child.  
288 ~~The written plan must include a program, to be implemented~~  
289 ~~periodically for children of an appropriate age, which will~~  
290 ~~assist the children in preventing and avoiding physical and~~

593-03757-23

2023990c1

291 ~~mental abuse.~~

292 ~~(17) SPECIALIZED CHILD CARE FACILITIES FOR THE CARE OF~~  
293 ~~MILDLY ILL CHILDREN. Minimum standards shall be developed by the~~  
294 ~~department, in conjunction with the Department of Health, for~~  
295 ~~specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill~~  
296 ~~children. The minimum standards shall address the following~~  
297 ~~areas: personnel requirements; staff-to-child ratios; staff~~  
298 ~~training and credentials; health and safety; physical facility~~  
299 ~~requirements, including square footage; client eligibility,~~  
300 ~~including a definition of "mildly ill children"; sanitation and~~  
301 ~~safety; admission and recordkeeping; dispensing of medication;~~  
302 ~~and a schedule of activities.~~

303 Section 3. Section 402.3115, Florida Statutes, is amended  
304 to read:

305 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary  
306 inspections; abbreviated inspections.—The Department of Children  
307 and Families and local governmental agencies that license child  
308 care facilities shall develop and implement a plan to eliminate  
309 duplicative and unnecessary inspections of child care  
310 facilities, family day care homes, and large family child care  
311 homes. In addition, the department and the local governmental  
312 agencies shall develop and implement an abbreviated inspection  
313 plan for child care facilities that have been licensed for a  
314 period of not less than 2 consecutive years, and do not have a  
315 had no Class 1 and no more than two of the same or Class 2  
316 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive  
317 years, have received at least two full onsite renewals in the  
318 most recent 2 years, do not have any current uncorrected  
319 violations, and do not have any open regulatory complaints or

593-03757-23

2023990c1

320 active child protective services investigations. The department  
321 shall annually calculate efficiencies and moneys saved due to  
322 the implementation of abbreviated inspections. Such savings  
323 shall be used to focus resources and technical assistance to  
324 support child care facilities, family day care homes, and large  
325 family child care homes that are having difficulty maintaining  
326 compliance with the licensing requirements of s. 402.305, s.  
327 402.313, or s. 402.3131. The abbreviated inspection must include  
328 those elements identified by the department and the local  
329 governmental agencies as being key indicators of whether the  
330 child care facility continues to provide quality care and  
331 programming and shall be updated every 5 years.

332 Section 4. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended  
333 to read:

334 627.70161 Family day care and large family child care home  
335 insurance.—

336 (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that  
337 family day care homes and large family child care homes fulfill  
338 a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the  
339 intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance  
340 coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on  
341 the basis of the family day care or large family child care home  
342 services at the residence. The Legislature also recognizes that  
343 the potential liability of residential property insurers is  
344 substantially increased by the rendition of child care services  
345 on the premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a  
346 public need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise  
347 in connection with the operation of the family day care home or  
348 large family child care home are excluded from residential

593-03757-23

2023990c1

349 property insurance policies unless they are specifically  
350 included in such coverage.

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

352 (a) "Child care" has the same meaning as in s. 402.302  
353 ~~means the care, protection, and supervision of a child, for a~~  
354 ~~period of less than 24 hours a day on a regular basis, which~~  
355 ~~supplements parental care, enrichment, and health supervision~~  
356 ~~for the child, in accordance with his or her individual needs,~~  
357 ~~and for which a payment, fee, or grant is made for care.~~

358 (b) "Family day care home" has the same meaning as in s.  
359 402.302 ~~means an occupied residence in which child care is~~  
360 ~~regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated~~  
361 ~~families and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of~~  
362 ~~the children receiving care, whether or not operated for a~~  
363 ~~profit.~~

364 (3) FAMILY DAY CARE AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE; COVERAGE.—  
365 A residential property insurance policy shall not provide  
366 coverage for liability for claims arising out of, or in  
367 connection with, the operation of a family day care home or  
368 large family child care home, and the insurer shall be under no  
369 obligation to defend against lawsuits covering such claims,  
370 unless:

371 (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or

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

374 (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An  
375 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for  
376 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the  
377 policyholder or applicant operates a family day care home or

593-03757-23

2023990c1

378 large family child care home. In addition to other lawful  
379 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or  
380 refuse to renew a policy of a family day care home or large  
381 family child care home provider if one or more of the following  
382 conditions occur:

383 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more  
384 children than authorized for family day care homes or large  
385 family child care homes under ~~by~~ s. 402.302.~~†~~

386 (b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a  
387 separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing  
388 liability coverage for the family day care home or large family  
389 child care home operations.~~†~~

390 (c) The policyholder or applicant fails to comply with the  
391 family day care home or large family child care home licensure  
392 and registration requirements specified in s. 402.313 or s.  
393 402.3131.~~†~~ ~~or~~

394 (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or  
395 omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations  
396 establishing safety standards for family day care homes or large  
397 family child care homes by the named insured or his or her  
398 representative which materially increase any of the risks  
399 insured.

400 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section  
401 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
403 private prekindergarten providers.—

404 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
405 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
406 following requirements:

593-03757-23

2023990c1

407 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for  
408 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one  
409 prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following  
410 requirements:

411 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,  
412 one of the following credentials:

413 a. A child development associate credential issued by the  
414 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional  
415 Recognition; or

416 b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and  
417 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential  
418 described in sub-subparagraph a.

419

420 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under  
421 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures  
422 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

423 2. Within 45 days after commencing employment, the  
424 prekindergarten instructor must successfully complete three  
425 emergent literacy training courses that include developmentally  
426 appropriate and experiential learning practices for children and  
427 a student performance standards training course approved by the  
428 department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted  
429 under s. 1002.59. The prekindergarten instructor must complete  
430 an emergent literacy training course at least once every 5 years  
431 after initially completing the three emergent literacy training  
432 courses. The courses in this subparagraph must be recognized as  
433 part of the informal early learning and career pathway  
434 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). The  
435 requirement for completion of the standards training course

593-03757-23

2023990c1

436 shall take effect July 1, 2022. The courses must be made  
437 available online or in person.

438 Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 1002.61, Florida  
439 Statutes, is amended to read:

440 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public  
441 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

442 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),  
443 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must  
444 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one  
445 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds  
446 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)  
447 or (b), or an educational credential specified in s.  
448 1002.55(3)(c)1.a. or b. as long as the instructor has completed  
449 the early literacy micro-credential program under s.  
450 1003.485(4)(h) or has an instructional support score of 3 or  
451 higher on a program assessment conducted under s. 1002.68(2) or  
452 s. 1002.82(2)(n). As used in this subsection, the term  
453 “certified teacher” means a teacher holding a valid Florida  
454 educator certificate under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications  
455 required by the district school board to instruct students in  
456 the summer prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional  
457 staff for the summer prekindergarten program, each school  
458 district shall give priority to teachers who have experience or  
459 coursework in early childhood education and have completed  
460 emergent literacy and performance standards courses, as provided  
461 for in s. 1002.55(3)(c)2.

462 Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
463 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

464 1002.67 Performance standards and curricula.—



593-03757-23

2023990c1

465 (2)

466 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
467 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and  
468 must:

469 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and  
470 provide for instruction in early math skills;

471 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in  
472 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department  
473 under subsection (1); ~~and~~

474 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated  
475 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening  
476 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.25(8). A private  
477 prekindergarten provider's or public school's curriculum may not  
478 consist of using the coordinated screening and progress  
479 monitoring program for direct student instruction; and

480 4. Exclude the student use of electronic devices, except to  
481 complete the coordinated screening and progress monitoring  
482 program under s. 1008.25(8).

483 Section 8. Subsection (2) and paragraphs (a), (d), and (f)  
484 of subsection (4) of section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, are  
485 amended to read:

486 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
487 accountability.—

488 (2) Beginning with the 2023-2024 ~~2022-2023~~ program year,  
489 each private prekindergarten provider and public school in the  
490 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in  
491 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education  
492 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of  
493 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,

593-03757-23

2023990c1

494 classroom organization, and instructional support for children  
495 ages 3 to 5 years. The program assessment may be conducted only  
496 when at least 75 percent of enrolled students are in attendance.  
497 Each private prekindergarten provider and public school in the  
498 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program shall receive from  
499 the department the results of the program assessment for each  
500 classroom within 14 days after the observation. Each early  
501 learning coalition shall be responsible for the administration  
502 of the program assessments which must be conducted by  
503 individuals qualified to conduct program assessments under s.  
504 1002.82(2)(n).

505 (4)(a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 ~~2022-2023~~ program year,  
506 the department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each  
507 private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's  
508 performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the  
509 following:

510 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection  
511 (2), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

512 2. Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability  
513 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results  
514 described in subsection (1).

515 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes  
516 described in subsection (1).

517 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent  
518 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent  
519 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early  
520 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability  
521 systems. The independent expert shall be identified through  
522 competitive procurement before the 2023-2024 program year and

593-03757-23

2023990c1

523 retained through the 2025-2026 program year and developed by the  
524 ~~department that~~ shall produce a limited number of performance  
525 metric profiles which summarize the profiles of all sites that  
526 must be used to inform the following designations:  
527 "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency," "proficient," "highly  
528 proficient," and "excellent" or comparable terminology  
529 determined by the office which may not include letter grades.

530 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually  
531 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public  
532 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in  
533 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph  
534 (d). Beginning with the 2024-2025 ~~2023-2024~~ program year, each  
535 private prekindergarten provider or public school shall be  
536 assigned a designation within 45 days after the conclusion of  
537 the school-year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program  
538 delivered by all participating private prekindergarten providers  
539 or public schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the  
540 summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by  
541 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public  
542 schools.

543 Section 9. Subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida  
544 Statutes, is amended to read:

545 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

546 (7) The department shall require that administrative  
547 expenditures be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and  
548 effective administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
549 Education Program. Administrative policies and procedures shall  
550 be revised, to the maximum extent practicable, to incorporate  
551 the use of automation and electronic submission of forms,

593-03757-23

2023990c1

552 including those required for child eligibility and enrollment,  
553 provider and class registration, and monthly certification of  
554 attendance for payment. A school district may use its automated  
555 daily attendance reporting system for the purpose of  
556 transmitting attendance records to the early learning coalition  
557 in a mutually agreed-upon format. In addition, actions shall be  
558 taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate the duplication of reports,  
559 and eliminate other duplicative activities. Each early learning  
560 coalition may retain and expend no more than 4.0 percent of the  
561 funds allocated under paragraph (3) (c), which shall be  
562 calculated based on the number of applications processed  
563 pursuant to s. 1002.53(4) (a) paid by the coalition to private  
564 prekindergarten providers and public schools under paragraph  
565 (5) (b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition under this  
566 subsection may be used only for administering the Voluntary  
567 Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used for the  
568 school readiness program or other programs.

569 Section 10. Paragraphs (f), (j), and (q) of subsection (2)  
570 of section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

571 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

572 (2) The department shall:

573 (f) Establish a unified approach to the state's efforts to  
574 coordinate a comprehensive early learning program. In support of  
575 this effort, the department:

576 1. Shall adopt specific program support services that  
577 address the state's school readiness program, including:

578 a. Statewide data information program requirements that  
579 include:

580 (I) Eligibility requirements.

593-03757-23

2023990c1

581 (II) Financial reports.

582 (III) Program accountability measures.

583 (IV) Child progress reports.

584 (V) The assignment of a Florida Education Identifier, as  
585 used by the department, for children in the school readiness  
586 program under this part and the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
587 Education Program under part V of this chapter.

588 (VI) The assignment of a Florida Education Identifier, as  
589 used by the department, for instructors in the school readiness  
590 program under this part and the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
591 Education Program under part V of this chapter.

592 b. Child care resource and referral services.

593 c. A single point of entry and uniform waiting list.

594 2. May provide technical assistance and guidance on  
595 additional support services to complement the school readiness  
596 program, including:

597 a. Warm-Line services.

598 b. Anti-fraud plans.

599 c. Training and support for parental involvement in  
600 children's early education.

601 d. Family literacy activities and services.

602 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the standards  
603 and benchmarks developed and adopted by the department that  
604 address the age-appropriate progress of children in the  
605 development of school readiness skills. The standards for  
606 children from birth to kindergarten entry in the school  
607 readiness program must be aligned with the performance standards  
608 adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
609 Program and must address the following domains:

593-03757-23

2023990c1

- 610 1. Approaches to learning.
- 611 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 612 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 613 4. Physical development.
- 614 5. Executive functioning ~~Self-regulation~~.
- 615 (q) Contract for ~~Establish~~ a single statewide information
- 616 system that shall be used to manage all early learning programs,
- 617 including the child care licensing and child care training
- 618 within the Child Care Services Program Office of the Department
- 619 of Children and Families, and that each coalition must use for
- 620 the purposes of managing the single point of entry, tracking
- 621 children's progress, coordinating services among stakeholders,
- 622 determining eligibility of children, tracking child attendance,
- 623 and streamlining administrative processes for providers and
- 624 early learning coalitions. By October 1, 2024 ~~July 1, 2019~~, the
- 625 system, subject to ss. 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:
- 626 1. Allow a parent to find early learning programs online,
- 627 including the performance profile under s. 1002.92(3)(a).
- 628 ~~2.1.~~ Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or
- 629 her child as the child moves among programs within the state.
- 630 ~~3.2.~~ Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local
- 631 level to measure child growth over time, program impact, and
- 632 quality improvement and investment decisions.
- 633 Section 11. Subsection (6) of section 1002.83, Florida
- 634 Statutes, is amended to read:
- 635 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—
- 636 (6) The early learning coalition may appoint additional at-
- 637 large members as long as the number of at-large members
- 638 appointed does not make up more than one-third of the board's

593-03757-23

2023990c1

639 composition. The at-large members may be ~~who must be private~~  
640 ~~sector business members,~~ either for-profit or nonprofit and may,  
641 ~~who do not have,~~ or have any ~~and none of whose~~ relatives as  
642 defined in s. 112.3143 who have ~~has,~~ a substantial financial  
643 interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary  
644 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this  
645 chapter or the school readiness program. The department shall  
646 establish criteria for appointing at-large ~~private sector~~  
647 ~~business~~ members. These criteria must include standards for  
648 determining whether a member or relative has a substantial  
649 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary  
650 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness  
651 program.

652 Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
653 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

654 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

655 (4) COST REQUIREMENTS.—Costs shall be kept to the minimum  
656 necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the  
657 school readiness program with the highest priority of  
658 expenditure being direct services for eligible children.  
659 However, no more than 5 percent of the funds allocated in  
660 paragraph (1) (a) may be used for administrative costs and no  
661 more than 22 percent of the funds allocated in paragraph (1) (a)  
662 may be used in any fiscal year for any combination of  
663 administrative costs, quality activities, and nondirect services  
664 as follows:

665 (b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as  
666 described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53, which shall be limited to the  
667 following:

593-03757-23

2023990c1

668 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and  
669 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related  
670 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents  
671 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified  
672 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

673 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to  
674 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist  
675 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program  
676 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care  
677 performance standards, implementing the developmentally  
678 appropriate curriculum commissioned under s. 1002.82(2)(1)  
679 ~~curricula~~ and related classroom resources that support parent  
680 engagement curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing  
681 continued professional development through the Teacher Education  
682 and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program under s.  
683 1002.95 and training aligned to the early learning professional  
684 development standards and career pathways under s. 1002.995 and  
685 ~~training~~. Any grants awarded pursuant to this subparagraph shall  
686 comply with ss. 215.971 and 287.058.

687 3. Providing training aligned with the early learning  
688 professional development standards and career pathways under s.  
689 1002.995, technical assistance, and financial support to school  
690 readiness program providers, staff, and parents on standards,  
691 child screenings, child assessments, the child development  
692 ~~research and best practices~~, developmentally appropriate  
693 curriculum commissioned under s. 1002.82(2)(1), executive  
694 functioning curricula, ~~character development~~, teacher-child  
695 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and  
696 safety, including reimbursement for background screenings,



593-03757-23

2023990c1

697 nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the  
698 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,  
699 prevention, and reporting.

700 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the  
701 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding  
702 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal  
703 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for  
704 infant and toddler care.

705 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and  
706 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as  
707 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

708 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and  
709 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings  
710 to school readiness program children.

711 Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section  
712 1002.945, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

713 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

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

718 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or more  
719 of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the  
720 Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years  
721 preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality  
722 Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II  
723 violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for  
724 termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care  
725 provider until the provider has no class II violations that are

593-03757-23

2023990c1

726 the same for a period of 1 year.

727 Section 14. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended  
728 to read:

729 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)  
730 Scholarship Program.—

731 (1) The department may contract for the administration of  
732 the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship  
733 Program, which provides educational scholarships to instructors  
734 ~~caregivers~~ and administrators of early childhood programs,  
735 family day care homes, and large family child care homes. The  
736 goal of the program is to increase the education and training  
737 for instructors ~~caregivers~~, increase the compensation for child  
738 instructors ~~caregivers~~ who complete the program requirements,  
739 and reduce the rate of participant turnover in the field of  
740 early childhood education.

741 (2) An early learning coalition shall support the Teacher  
742 Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program for  
743 instructors by reimbursing child care providers for the  
744 copayment portion of the program for each instructor who  
745 completes a child development associate credential in his or her  
746 service area which shall be funded in accordance with s.  
747 1002.89(4)(b).

748 (3) ~~(2)~~ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as  
749 necessary to administer this section.

750 Section 15. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section  
751 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

752 1008.25 Public school student progression; student support;  
753 coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting  
754 requirements.—

593-03757-23

2023990c1

755 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

756 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student  
757 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills  
758 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and  
759 based upon the results of the administration of the final  
760 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under subsection  
761 (8) shall be referred to the local school district and may be  
762 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions the summer  
763 before participating in kindergarten. The intensive reading  
764 intervention may be delivered by a private prekindergarten  
765 provider or public school prekindergarten provider that is  
766 qualified to offer the summer Voluntary Prekindergarten  
767 Education Program in accordance with s. 1002.61. The program  
768 shall consist of no more than 4 hours of instruction per day for  
769 a total of 140 hours. Such intensive reading interventions shall  
770 be paid for using funds from the General Appropriations Act in  
771 accordance with the rate set for a student in a summer  
772 prekindergarten program ~~district's evidence-based reading~~  
773 ~~instruction allocation in accordance with s. 1011.62(8).~~

774 Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section  
775 39.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

776 39.101 Central abuse hotline.—The central abuse hotline is  
777 the first step in the safety assessment and investigation  
778 process.

779 (4) USE OF INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL ABUSE  
780 HOTLINE.—

781 (a) Information received by the central abuse hotline may  
782 not be used for employment screening, except as provided in s.  
783 39.202(2)(a) and (h) or s. 402.302(16) ~~s. 402.302(15).~~

593-03757-23

2023990c1

784 Section 17. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1002.57,  
785 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

786 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

787 (3) The prekindergarten director credential must meet or  
788 exceed the requirements of the Department of Children and  
789 Families for the child care facility director credential under  
790 s. 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~, and successful completion of  
791 the prekindergarten director credential satisfies these  
792 requirements for the child care facility director credential.

793 (4) The department shall, to the maximum extent  
794 practicable, award credit to a person who successfully completes  
795 the child care facility director credential under s.  
796 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~ for those requirements of the  
797 prekindergarten director credential which are duplicative of  
798 requirements for the child care facility director credential.

799 Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 1002.59, Florida  
800 Statutes, is amended to read:

801 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards  
802 training courses.—

803 (1) The department, in collaboration with the Just Read,  
804 Florida! Office, shall adopt minimum standards for courses in  
805 emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors. Each course  
806 must comprise 5 clock hours and provide instruction in  
807 strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate  
808 progress of prekindergarten students in developing emergent  
809 literacy skills, including oral communication, knowledge of  
810 print and letters, phonological and phonemic awareness, and  
811 vocabulary and comprehension development, consistent with the  
812 evidence-based content and strategies identified pursuant to s.

593-03757-23

2023990c1

813 1001.215(8). The course standards must be reviewed as part of  
814 any review of subject coverage or endorsement requirements in  
815 the elementary, reading, and exceptional student educational  
816 areas conducted pursuant to s. 1012.586. Each course must also  
817 provide resources containing strategies that allow students with  
818 disabilities and other special needs to derive maximum benefit  
819 from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful  
820 completion of an emergent literacy training course approved  
821 under this section satisfies requirements for approved training  
822 in early literacy and language development under ss.

823 402.305(2)(e)4., 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5) ss.

824 ~~402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5).~~

825 Section 19. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.