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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/17/2025	.	
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The Committee on Fiscal Policy (Calatayud) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment**

Delete lines 55 - 113  
and insert:  
person may not be the child's parent or relative or a person  
employed by a child care provider. The following documentation  
must be used to determine the child's eligibility for such  
accommodations:

a. ~~with a disability, has~~ A current individual education  
plan with a Florida school district; ~~and is not younger than 3~~



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~~years of age.~~

b. A current individualized family support plan;

c. A diagnosed special need; or

d. A written determination of required accommodations by a licensed health care professional, a licensed mental health professional, or an educational psychologist ~~needs child eligible under this paragraph remains eligible until the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.~~

7. A child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility criteria in paragraphs (a) and (b) and subparagraphs 1. and 2. but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

(2) A school readiness program provider may be paid only for authorized hours of care provided for a child in the school readiness program. A child enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program may receive care from the school readiness program if the child is eligible according to the eligibility priorities and criteria established in subsection (1). The school readiness program provider of a child who meets the requirements of subsection (6) may be eligible for additional funding through the special needs differential allocation to implement the special needs rate as determined in s. 1002.89(1)(d).

Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITION SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM FUNDING.—Funding for the school readiness



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program shall be used by the early learning coalitions in accordance with this part and the General Appropriations Act.

(d) *Special needs differential allocation.*—There is created the special needs differential allocation to assist eligible school readiness program providers to implement the special needs rate provisions defined in the state’s approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan. Subject to legislative appropriation, each early learning coalition shall be reimbursed based on actual expenditures. All expenditures from the special needs differential allocation shall be used by the department to help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in the state’s approved plan. A school readiness program provider is eligible for funding through the allocation to implement the special needs differential rate upon meeting all of the following requirements beginning July 1, 2027:

1. The provider has met or exceeded the minimum program assessment composite score required for contracting as determined by the department, as applicable.

2. Instructional staff employed or contracted by the provider has completed training on early identification of social and communication delays as specified by the department.

3. The instructor assigned by the provider to the child in need of additional accommodations under s. 1002.87(1)(c)6. has completed 10 hours of training in inclusive early childhood or inclusive school-age education practices within the first 90 days after the child’s enrollment or within 90 days after the hiring of a new instructor assigned by the provider to a child in need of additional accommodations under s. 1002.87(1)(c)6.



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After the initial determination of eligibility, the provider  
must maintain the required program composite score and the  
instructor assigned by the provider to a child who needs  
additional accommodations under s. 1002.87(1)(c)6. must complete  
a minimum of 2 hours of relevant training in each subsequent  
year after the initial determination of eligibility in order to  
remain eligible to implement the special needs differential  
rate.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.