

# Early Learning Taskforce Meeting



**Children's Board of Hillsborough County**

**September 3, 2009**

**10:00 a.m. – until business is concluded**

# Agenda

<b>10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>	<b>Mel Jurado, Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Council Legislative Committee</b>
<b>10:15 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Recap of 2009 Legislative Session</b>	<b>Brittany Birken, Director, Office of Early Learning</b>
<b>10:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>2009 Legislative Dissection</b>	<b>Michele Watson, System Development Manager, Office of Early Learning</b>
<b>1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>2:00 p.m. -3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Identification of Potential 2010 Legislative Priorities</b>	<b>Whole Group</b>
<b>3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Mel Jurado, Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Council Legislative Committee</b>

**Background:** During the 2009 Legislative Session bills in both the House and Senate were filed that impacted the early learning system. The impact of these filed bills would have ranged from technical modifications to large system redesigns. In order to begin planning for the 2010 Legislative Session, a motion was made and approved by the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) during its June 2009 meeting that the Agency reconvene the Early Learning Taskforce. The purpose of this motion was to revisit the 2009 filed bills and discuss potential new legislation that would be submitted to ELAC during its September meeting for consideration.

**Document:** This document is a compilation of all early learning legislation that was filed during the 2009 General Session, suggested legislation submitted by ELAC members, and general statutes that could be amended to improve the early learning system.

## 2009 General Session Legislation

Florida Statute	Effect of Proposed Change*	Can Accomplish Without Legislation	Need Legislation	Opportunity to Educate	N/A
<b>Senate Bill – 100</b>		<b>Sponsor – Senator Wilson</b>			
1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by private prekindergarten providers	Requires that private VPK providers offering a school-year VPK program must comprise of <b>720 hours or the same number of instructional hours as provided to a student in kindergarten and first grade, if the provider provides instruction in kindergarten and first grade.</b>				
1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by public schools.	Requires that public school VPK providers offering a school-year VPK program must <b>comprise of same number of instructional hours as provided to a student in kindergarten and first grade, if the provider provides instruction in kindergarten and first grade.</b>				
1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting	Requires that a full-time equivalent student in the VPK Program shall be calculated as follows: For a student in a school-year VPK program delivered by a private VPK provider: up to <b>720 instructional hours</b> or the same number of instructional hours as is provided to a student in kindergarten and first grade, if the provider provides instruction in kindergarten and first				

\* **Bold= Statutory Change**

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	grade.				
<b>House Bill- 487</b>	<b>Sponsor- Representatives Long, Weatherford</b>	<b>Senate Bill- 676</b>		<b>Sponsor- Senator Fasano</b>	
1002.65 Professional credentials of prekindergarten instructors; aspirational goals; legislative intent	Requires that the aspirational goals for VPK be mandated by revising statute to include that: <b>By the 2010-2011 school year: Each VPK Instructor hold an Associate's Degree in early childhood.</b> <b>By the 2013-2014 school year, each prekindergarten class shall have at least one prekindergarten instructor who holds a bachelor's or higher degree</b>				
<b>House Bill- 1125</b>	<b>Sponsor- Representative Clarke-Reed</b>	<b>Senate Bill- 2380</b>		<b>Sponsor- Senator Wilson</b>	
24.121 Allocation of revenues and expenditure of funds for public education.	<b>Requires apportion of Powerball net revenues, as determined annually by the Legislature, shall be distributed to enhance VPK programs. Such funds shall be allocated to each VPK program in an equal amount for each student enrolled. Such funds must be used for direct classroom expenditures and may not be used for administrative costs.</b>				
<b>House Bill- 1143</b>	<b>Sponsor- Aubuchon</b>	<b>Senate Bill- 1980</b>		<b>Sponsor- Senator Storms</b>	
20.04 Structure of executive branch	<b>Technical language revision for the Department of Children and Families that mirrors the current organizational structure of licensing "regions" or "circuits".</b>				
<b>House Bill- 1385</b>	<b>Sponsor- Precourt</b>	<b>Senate Bill- 2478</b>		<b>Sponsor- Senator Gardiner</b>	
1002.66 Prekindergarten program for children	<b>Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, a child with a disability who enrolls with the</b>				

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with disabilities.	<p>early learning coalition under s. 1002.53(3)(d) is eligible for a prekindergarten program with early intervention services if:</p> <p>(a) The child is eligible for the VPK Program under s. 1002.53.</p> <p>(b) A current Individual Educational Plan (IEP) has been developed for the child in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.</p> <p>The parent of a child who is eligible for VPK for children with disabilities may select one or more early intervention services that the child's IEP indicates is appropriate for the child in lieu of VPK education services up to the VPK reimbursement amount.</p> <p>The Department of Education shall approve early intervention service providers and maintain a list of approved providers, and notify each school district and early learning coalition of the approved provider list.</p> <p>Requires OEL to reimburse an approved early intervention service provider for authorized services provided to an eligible child, not exceed the amount of the base student allocation provided in the VPK Program in the General Appropriations Act.</p>				
<b>Senate Bill- 1920</b>					
<b>Sponsor- Senator Detert</b>					
1002.55 School-year	Requires all VPK instructors to complete a				

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prekindergarten program delivered by private prekindergarten providers	training course provided by the Department of Education which emphasizes the standards under the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.				
<b>House Bill- 1411</b>		<b>Sponsor- Representative Stargel</b>		<b>Senate Bill- 2458</b>	
1012.98 School Community Professional Development Act	Allows an organization of approved Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program providers with no fewer than 10 members in this state, may also develop a professional development system that includes a master plan for inservice activities and a program for demonstration of professional education competence under s. 1012.56				
<b>Senate Bill- 2160</b>		<b>Sponsor- Senator Hardipolos</b>			
411.0102 Child Care Executive Partnership Act; findings and intent; grant; limitation; rules.	Reviser's bill deletes obsolete reference requiring each task force to develop a plan for the use of child care purchasing pool funds. The plan must show how many children will be served by the purchasing pool, how many will be new to receiving child care services, and how the Early Learning Coalition intends to attract new employers and their employees to the program.				
<b>Senate Bill- 2570</b>		<b>Sponsor- Senator Wise</b>			
402.25 (lines 230-252) Infants and toddlers in state-funded education	Renumbers to section 411.0106, requires that infants and toddlers in state-funded education and care programs provide an environment				

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and care programs	<b>that helps children attain the performance standards adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation under s.411.01(4)(d)7.</b>				
402.281 (lines 266-277) Gold Seal Quality Care program	Removes reference to the State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs <b>and replaces with the Agency for Workforce Innovation</b> as an entity DCF shall consult with for the purpose of approving Gold Seal Accrediting Associations.				
402.3018 (lines 281-318) Consultation to child care centers and family day care homes regarding health, developmental, disability, and special needs issues.	<b>Renumbers to section 411.01015</b> requires AWI to administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line for the purpose of providing assistance and consultation to child care centers and family day care homes regarding health, developmental, disability, and special needs issues of the children they are serving, particularly children with disabilities and other special needs. AWI must also annually inform child care providers of the availability of this resource through the state Child Care Resource and Referral Network. Furthermore, Contingent upon specific appropriations, the Agency for Workforce Innovation department shall expand, or contract for the expansion of, the Warm-Line to maintain at least one Warm Line site in each early learning coalition service area.				

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402.351 (lines 322-372) Prevailing market rate schedule	<p>Renumbers to section 411.01013 requires AWI to <b>annually</b> determine the 75th percentile of a reasonable frequency distribution of the market rate in a predetermined geographic market at which child care providers charge a person for child care services.</p> <p>(2) AWI shall establish procedures for the adoption of a prevailing market rate schedule. The schedule must include, at a minimum, county-by county rates: At the prevailing market rate, plus the maximum rate for child care providers that hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281.</p> <p>Provides AWI with rulemaking authority to administer this section.</p>				
411.01(lines 480-484) School readiness programs; early learning coalitions	Requires that administrative staff for school readiness programs be kept to the minimum necessary to administer the duties of the Agency for Workforce Innovation and <b>early learning coalitions</b> .				
(lines 526-528)	Focus on improving the educational quality of <b>all program providers</b> participating in publicly funded school readiness programs.				
(lines 538-539)	Changes the requirement of AWI to provide periodic review. To provide a <b>biannual</b> review of an Early Learning Coalition and its school readiness plan.				
(lines 543-559)	Requires AWI to adopt specific system support				

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	<p>service strategies that address the states school readiness programs. An <b>Early Learning Coalition shall amend its school readiness plan to conform to the specific system support strategies adopted by AWI</b> which include: <b>Child care resource and referral services; Warm-Line services; Eligibility determinations; Child performance standards; child screening and assessment; developmentally appropriate curricula, health and safety requirements; statewide data system requirements; and rating and improving systems.</b></p>				
(lines 563-574)	<p>Requires AWI to adopt a rule establishing criteria for the expenditure of funds designated for the purpose of funding activities to improve the quality of child care within the state in accordance with s. 658G of the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant. <b>The rule shall establish criteria by which coalitions may implement locally developed quality programs. Before implementing a locally developed quality program, the rule shall require that a coalition demonstrate that it has solicited and received comments regarding the proposed quality program from the local community</b> and that implementation of the locally developed quality program conforms to</p>				

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	the coalition's school readiness plan.				
(lines 575-581)	Requires AWI to provide technical assistance to Early Learning Coalitions based on information obtained by any of the following sources, including, but not limited to, <b>public input, government reports, private interest group, reports, agency monitoring visits, and coalition requests for service.</b>				
(lines 594-605)	Requires AWI to adopt rules <b>governing the administration of system support services preparation</b> and implementation of the school readiness programs system, the collection of data, the approval of Early Learning Coalitions and school readiness plans, the provision of a method whereby an Early Learning Coalition may serve two or more counties, the award of incentives to Early Learning Coalitions, <b>child performance standards, child outcome measures</b> , and the issuance of waivers, and the implementation of the federal Child Care and Development Fund Plan.				
(lines 652-660)	<b>Requires that within 30 days after enrollment in the school readiness program</b> , the Early Learning Coalition must obtain, or ensure that the programs provider obtains information regarding the child's immunizations, physical development, and other health requirements as necessary, including appropriate vision and				

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	hearing screening and examinations.				
(lines 661-667)	Requires AWI to conduct studies and planning activities related to the overall improvement and effectiveness of the outcome measures adopted by AWI for school readiness programs and the specific system support service strategies outlined in lines 543-559.				
(lines 706-710) (lines 757-762)	Reduces the number of coalitions from 30 to <b>20 and requires coalitions to serve a minimum of 3000 children</b> (instead of 2000).Removes the grandfather clause for the counties of <b>Osceola, Santa Rosa, and Sarasota.</b>				
(lines 712-725)	<b>Requires coalitions to comply with merger procedures and be organized by July 1, 2010 and complete mergers by October 1, 2010.</b>				
(lines 763-770)	Reduces the number of members of an early learning coalition from 35 to <b>25 with not more than 18 voting members.</b>				
(lines 771-774)	<b>Reduces the requirement that the Governor appoint three members to just appointing the chair.</b>				
(lines 775-809)	Removes the membership from the Department of Health, Board of County Commissioners, and Central Agency. Allows School Districts, Children's Services Counsels, Head Start, private child care providers, and faith-based representatives to be voting members. Adds that the Workforce Board representative shall				

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	be non-voting.				
(lines 810-827)	<b>Removes the requirement that private sector business members be from a list of nominees by the Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Council.</b>				
(lines 872-877)	Provides that an Early Learning Coalition may not impose requirements on a child care provider that does not receive school readiness program funding.				
(lines 894-911)	<b>Requires AWI to establish through technology a single information system that each coalition must use for tracking children's progress, coordinating services among stakeholders, determining eligibility, tracking child attendance, and streamlining administrative processes for providers and Early Learning Coalitions and each coalition must use the statewide system.</b>				
(lines 926-932)	<b>Prohibits a school readiness provider from administering corporal punishment or any other punishment that is severe, humiliating or frightening.</b>				
(lines 933-958)	Identifies system support service elements that each school readiness program must implement to include: Developmentally appropriate curriculum, character development program, age-appropriate screening , age-appropriate assessment, appropriate staff-to-				

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	children ratio, resource and referral network , and <b>regional warm-line.</b>				
(lines 964-989)	<p><b>Requires each Early Learning Coalition to coordinate with each other to implement a comprehensive program of school readiness services which enhances the cognitive, social, physical, and moral character of the children to achieve the performance standards and outcome measures, helps families achieve economic self-sufficiency, and reduces agency duplication. Such program must contain, at a minimum, the following elements: Implement</b></p> <p>the school readiness program to meet the requirements of this section and the <b>system support services</b>, performance standards and outcome measures adopted by AWI.</p> <p>Demonstrate how the program will ensure that each child from <b>birth through 5</b> years of age in a publicly funded school readiness program receives scheduled activities and instruction designed to enhance the age-appropriate progress of the children in attaining the performance standards adopted by the Agency for Workforce Innovation under subparagraph (4)(d)7. Requires AWI to review the school readiness plans <b>biennially.</b></p>				
(lines 1005-1064)	Requires AWI to adopt rules establishing criteria for approval of school readiness plans				

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	<p>which must conform with the <b>system support services</b>, performance standards, and outcome measures adopted by the agency and must require each approved plan to include the following minimum standards and provisions for the school readiness program to include: a <b>community plan</b>, sliding fee scale, choice of settings, Instructional staff who have completed training courses applicable to chapter 402. <b>(removes AWI's ability to require additional staff training and replaces it with the provision that AWI work with DCF to create a method of assuring qualifications)</b>, specific eligibility priorities for children, Performance standards and outcome measures, the adoption of payment rates (states that payment rates may not have the effect of limiting parental choice or creating standards or levels of services that have not been authorized by the Legislature or <b>Federal Government.</b>), direct enhancement services <b>(defines direct enhancement services as may include parent training and involvement activities and strategies to meet the needs of unique populations and local eligibility priorities. Enhancement services for children may include provider supports and professional development approved in their</b></p>				

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	<p><b>plan by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.), the business organization of the Early Learning Coalition, and the implementation of locally developed quality programs in accordance with the requirements adopted by the agency under s. 411.01(4)(d)5.</b></p>				
(lines 1068-1078)	<p>Allows AWI to request from the Governor a waiver to allow the coalition to administer the Head Start Program to accomplish the purposes of the school readiness program.</p>				
(lines 1114-1124)	<p><b>Requires each Early Learning Coalition to comply with the procurement and expenditure procedures adopted by the AWI, including, but not limited to, applying the procurement and expenditure procedures required by federal law for the expenditure of federal funds. (removes requirement to comply with s. 287.057, F.S.)</b></p>				
(lines 1125-1137)	<p>Requires each Early Learning Coalition to adopt a payment rate schedule that must take into consideration the prevailing market rate <b>under s. 411.01013. An Early Learning Coalition may not plan, devise, or implement any process that differentiates payment rates, except for the processes under s. 411.01013.</b> The payment rate for an informal child care arrangement may not exceed arrangements</p>				

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	shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted developed for a family day care home.				
(lines 1163-1173)	Requires each Early Learning Coalition to provide an annual report to AWI conducting an evaluation of <b>system support services</b> , performance standards, and outcome measures, and shall provide an annual report and fiscal statement to the Agency for Workforce Innovation. <b>This report must also include an evaluation of the effectiveness of its direct enhancement services</b> and conform to the content and format specifications adopted set by the AWI. The Agency for Workforce Innovation must include an analysis of the Early Learning Coalitions' reports in the agency's annual report.				
411.0101 Child care and early childhood resource and referral (lines 1174-1240)	Clarifies priority for placement in the school readiness program to include <b>TCA clients Birth to 13, at -risk children birth-five</b> , followed by economically disadvantaged.				
(lines 1241-1267)	Defines payment certificate as means a <b>child care certificate as defined in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.2</b> . The school readiness program shall, in accordance with 45 C.F.R. s. 98.30, provide parental choice through a <b>payment certificate</b> that ensures, to the maximum extent possible, flexibility in the school readiness program and				

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	payment arrangements.				
(lines 1285-1301)	Requires AWI <b>subject to legislative notice and review under s. 216.177</b> , shall establish a formula for the allocation of all state and federal school readiness funds provided for children participating in the school readiness program, whether served by a public or private provider.				
(lines 1342-1380)	Requires AWI to establish a resource and referral network that provides <b>unbiased referrals</b> . Allows AWI to adopt rules				
(lines 1354-1362)	Requires AWI to adopt rules <b>regarding accessibility of child care resource and referral services offered through child care resource and referral agencies in each county or multicounty region which include, at a minimum, required hours of operation, methods by which parents may request services, and child care resource and referral staff training requirements.</b>				
(lines 1388-1396)	Requires that the resource and referral network may referrals only to providers who are <b>legally operating</b> .(prior version stated licensed child care facilities)				
411.0102 Child Care Executive Partnership Act; findings and intent;	Requires that a child care purchasing pool shall be developed with the state, federal, and local funds to provide subsidies to low income				

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grant; limitation; rules (lines 1467-1485)	working parents whose <b>family income does not exceed the allowable income for any federally subsidized child care program</b> with a dollar-for dollar match from employers, local government, and other matching contributions.				
(lines 1491-1498)	Allows the Child Care Executive Partnership to <b>use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings, including establishing a quorum given proper public notice.</b>				
(lines 1514-1528)	<b>Deletes requirement to establish a community child care task force for each child care purchasing pool.</b>				
411.0105 Early Learning Opportunities Act and Even Start Family Literacy Programs; lead agency (lines 1531-1546)	<b>Designates DOE as the lead agency for the federal Even Start program and requires DOE to enter into an interagency agreement with AWI for the administration of the program.</b>				
1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program; eligibility and enrollment (lines 1715-1721)	<b>Prohibits a VPK provider from administering corporal punishment or any other punishment that is severe, humiliating or frightening.</b>				
(lines 1837-1838)	<b>Repeals</b> the Subsidized Child Care Case Management Program for at risk children and the Subsidized Child Care Transportation System.				

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(lines 1838-1839)	<b>Renumbers</b> the Early Head Start Collaboration Grant statute to 411.0104 which allows AWI contingent upon specific appropriation to establish a program to award collaboration grants to assist local agencies in securing Early Head Start programs through Early Head Start program federal grants.				

## Proposed ELAC Member Priorities

Legislative Priority	Submitted by	Comments
<b>VPK</b>		
Reopen VPK legislation to review program requirements, program hours and funding level	Skip Housh – Escambia	
Make it easier for private and parochial schools to offer VPK especially as it relates to Directors Credentials	Member	
Pre and Post tests for VPK so growth scores can be reported	Member	
<b>Quality Rating System</b>		
Develop a Statewide Quality Rating System	Toni Crawford - Duval	
<b>Training &amp; Compensation</b>		

Legislative Priority	Submitted by	Comments
<p>Workforce does not promote childhood education because it is below the minimum wage requirement. Minimum wage to train is \$13.47 Early Learning rate is \$8.00</p> <p>Workout issues with Workforce Board so that they can provide training for early learning professionals</p> <p>Build a compensation program aimed at keeping quality teachers in the profession</p> <p>Health insurance for employees of providers</p>	<p>Christina Worley – Palm Beach</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Tony Loupe – St. Lucie</p>	
<b>School Readiness</b>		
<p>What changes need to be made to 411</p> <p>Seek revisions to improve processes and systems for coalitions (i.e. procurement process)</p> <p>How do we overcome 37 million dollar deficit effective 7/1/2010?</p>	<p>Joe Paterno – Southwest Florida</p> <p>Chris Jensen – Big Bend</p> <p>Skip Housh - Escambia</p>	
<b>Recovery Funds</b>		
<p>Federal Advocacy- Trip to Washington DC</p> <p>Sustainability after Recovery Funds end</p>	<p>Mel Jurado – Hillsborough</p> <p>Joe Paterno – Southwest Florida</p>	
<b>Early Learning Data</b>		

Legislative Priority	Submitted by	Comments
Identify ways to monitor achievement data for all SR/VPK children over time (i.e. monitoring systems Pre-K – 12)	Member	
<b>Health and Safety Standards</b>		
Adopt statewide DCF health and safety standards for all providers	Member	

DRAFT

# Potential 2010 Legislation

Agency	Statute
<b>AWI</b>	School Readiness Act Section 411.01, Florida Statutes
Suggested Changes	
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Agency	Statute
<b>AWI</b>	<b>Child Care Resource and Referral Section 411.0101, Florida Statutes</b>
<b>Suggested Changes</b>	
<b>AWI</b>	<b>Child Care Executive Partnership Section 411.0102, Florida Statutes</b>
<b>Suggested Changes</b>	

Agency	Statute
<b>AWI</b>	<b>Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program Section 1002.51- 1002.79, Florida Statutes</b>
Suggested Changes	
<b>DRAFT</b>	

Agency	Statute
<b>DCF</b>	Child Care Licensing Section 402 .26- 402.56, Florida Statutes
Suggested Changes	
<b>DRAFT</b>	

Agency	Statute
<b>DOE</b>	<b>Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program Section 1002.51- 1002.79, Florida Statutes</b>
Suggested Changes	
<b>DRAFT</b>	