

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

April 15, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Education Advisory Council

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**PROPOSED BOARD ACTION**

Approval of the creation of an advisory council for the purpose of providing recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding implementation of universal prekindergarten education programs.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amendment 8 to Florida's Constitution was approved by the voters on November 8, 2002. This Amendment requires that every four-year old in Florida be offered a high quality prekindergarten learning opportunity by the state no later than the 2005 school year (universal prekindergarten programs). This voluntary early childhood development and education program is to be established according to high standards and free for all four-year olds without taking away funds use for existing education, health, and development programs.

In 1999, the Florida Legislature created section 411.01, Florida Statutes, as the "School Readiness Act" for the purpose of implementing an integrated and seamless school readiness program for the state's at-risk and economically disadvantaged children ages birth-to-kindergarten. Currently, most of Florida's school readiness programs are operated by the state's 50 local school readiness coalitions under the leadership of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness Programs, which is administratively assigned to the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI).

As of April 4, 2003, there are two bills that address the implementation of UPK Committee Substitute/Committee Substitute for Senate Bill (CS/CS/SB) 1334 and Committee Substitute for House Bill (CS/HB) 193. Both of these bills require studies to be conducted by the State Board of Education, the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). The State Board of Education's study, due December 31, 2003, is to focus on the programmatic aspects and outcomes for universal prekindergarten programs.

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**Supporting Documentation Included:** Section 411.01, Florida Statutes, School Readiness Act; Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1334; Committee Substitute for House Bill 193; *Universal Prekindergarten Education Advisory Council*

**Facilitators/Presenters:**

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