

Universal Prekindergarten Education Advisory Council

Purpose

The State Board of Education has established an Advisory Council to provide the Board with recommendations regarding the implementation of quality universal prekindergarten Education programs consistent with the requirements of the constitutional amendment. These recommendations shall address the following:

- Curriculum standards in the areas of language and communication, early literacy and reading, and cognitive development that include developmentally appropriate assessments
- Expected outcomes for children and school readiness programs
- Programmatic aspects of the universal prekindergarten program
- Coordination of universal prekindergarten education programs with existing school readiness programs
- Best practices for quality universal prekindergarten education programs and providers
- Cost estimates for quality universal prekindergarten education programs.

The Department shall make available staff support and experts in the areas of school readiness, elementary education, reading, assessment, accountability, quality educators, data collection, and funding.

Composition of Council

The Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Education and be geographically and demographically representative of the state. The Council shall be chaired by Lieutenant Governor Toni Jennings and shall include the following representatives:

- the Chairperson of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness
- the Commissioner of Education or his designee
- the Secretary of the Agency for Workforce Innovation or her designee
- the chairperson of a local school readiness coalition
- the superintendent of a local school district
- a representative of the faith-based providers of school readiness programs
- a representative of the private providers of school readiness programs
- a representative of public school providers of school readiness programs
- a representative of public school providers of prekindergarten programs for students with disabilities
- a representative of the directors of Head Start programs

Meetings of the Council shall be noticed and provide the opportunity for public input. The activities of the Council shall be coordinated with the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) and the Office of the Auditor General, as appropriate.

