

Universal Prekindergarten Education Advisory Council - An Update

June 6, 2003

Purpose

To be consistent with the requirements of CS/CS/SB 1334, SB 534, & SB 360, the Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) Education Advisory Council, as approved by the State Board of Education on April 15, 2003, will expand the scope of its work to include the identification of options for the State Board of Education's consideration for each of the following program elements:

- Curriculum and standards that are developmentally appropriate and provide children with high-quality prekindergarten learning opportunities and designed to:
 - Address and enhance each child's ability to make age-appropriate progress
 - Provide early childhood development of language and cognitive capabilities
 - Provide education in basic skills and other appropriate skills
 - Deliver early childhood development and education according to professionally accepted standards.
- Quality standards that provide children a high-quality prekindergarten learning opportunity that must include specific outcomes of the UPK program.
- Standards for the quantity of instruction, to be provided as voluntary and free for every child who is four years of age, that includes specific recommendations or options for each of the following:
 - Hours per day
 - Days per year.
- Standards for providers in order to deliver a high quality prekindergarten learning opportunity to include specific recommendations or options for each of the following:
 - Appropriate range of settings, including both public and private providers, with consideration of the capacity in each available setting
 - Licensing or regulatory requirements for providers
 - Health and safety requirements for providers
 - Parental choice.
- Methods for measuring the performance of the voluntary universal prekindergarten education program that includes specific recommendations or options for each of the following:
 - Assessment of age-appropriate progress for each child
 - Evaluation of outcome measures for each provider in each setting
 - Evaluation of school readiness coalitions.

- ❑ Estimated cost per full-time equivalent child of the recommended curriculum, design, and standards to include consideration of each of the State Board of Education's recommendations or options for each of the program elements described above.

The report, due October 1, 2003, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, must include the State Board of Education's recommendations or options to improve the outcomes of school readiness coalitions and providers.

Composition of Council – An Update

As approved on April 15, 2003, by the State Board of Education, the Advisory Council members were appointed by the Commissioner of Education and are geographically and demographically representative of the state. The Council will be chaired by Lt. Governor Toni Jennings.

The council membership was expanded to include at-large members to provide representation from the business sector.

To date, the following appointments have been made:

- ❑ James Warford, Chancellor, K-12 Programs, Florida Department of Education; Tallahassee
- ❑ David Lawrence, Chairperson of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness; Miami-Dade
- ❑ Susan Paregis, Secretary, Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI); Tallahassee
- ❑ Katherine E. Wilson, Chairperson Duval County's Local School Readiness Coalition; Jacksonville
- ❑ David Miller, Superintendent, Wakulla County Schools; Crawfordville
- ❑ Barbara Hodges, Headmistress, Holy Comforter Episcopal School; Tallahassee
- ❑ Thelma Washington, Director, Gertrude Walden Child Development Center; Stuart
- ❑ Nelson Luis, General Director, Supportive Services, Hillsborough County Schools; Tampa
- ❑ Nancy Lieberman, Director, Prek Programs for Children with Disabilities, Broward County Schools; Ft. Lauderdale
- ❑ Dr. Carmen Nicholas, Head Start Director, Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners; Palm Beach

“At-large” council members include:

- ❑ Sister Roberta Bailey, St. Leo
- ❑ Scott Clemons, Panama City
- ❑ H.G. (Butch) Cronon, Hand N Hand Child Enrichment Center and Academy; Orlando
- ❑ Jackie Kolk, Panama City
- ❑ Kirk Landon, American Banker Life; Miami
- ❑ Barbara Mainster, Redlands Christian Migrant Association; Immokalee
- ❑ Clarence Otis, President, Smokey Bones; Orlando
- ❑ Susan Story, Gulf Power Company; Pensacola

Meeting Schedule and Arrangements

The meetings of the UPK Education Advisory Council will be noticed and provide the opportunity for public input. Meetings and/or conference calls will be held at least monthly. Each meeting will include a panel of experts on the topic(s) to be addressed at the meeting and a report on the status of the studies by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA) and the Auditor General, as required by CS/CS/SB 1334. Site visits may also be required of the advisory committee members.

Staff to the UPK Education Advisory Council will consist of representatives from the Lt. Governor and Governor’s Offices, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, and the Department of Education, along with contracted staff.

Briefings with appropriate legislative staff will be scheduled regularly.

Calendar of Meetings and Topics to be Addressed

June 24, 2003

- ❑ Meeting -TBA, Tallahassee – **Guiding Principles and Outcomes**

July 8, 2003

- ❑ Conference Call Meeting

July 23, 2003

- ❑ Meeting - TBA, Orlando – **Standards and Accountability**

August 2003

- ❑ Conference Call Meeting

August 2003

- ❑ Meeting - TBA – **Delivery Design and Administrative Structure**

September 2003

- ❑ Conference Call Meeting

September 2003

- Meeting - TBA – **Cost and Funding**

October 2003

- Conference Call Meeting – **Review and Submission of Report**