

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 16, 2003

SUBJECT: Universal Pre-kindergarten Education Advisory Council

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

For Update.

AUTHORITY FOR STATE BOARD ACTION

N/A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**An Update
September 3, 2003**

[Amendment No. 8 of section 1\(b\) and \(c\), Article IX](#) of the [State Constitution](#) requires the creation of a voluntary, free prekindergarten education program for 4-year old children in Florida. The 2003 legislation enacting the constitutional amendment requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to report to the Governor and the Legislature on the proposed standards and design elements of the new program.

On April 15, 2003 the State Board of Education established an Advisory Council to make recommendations for the implementation of a quality program consistent with the requirements of the constitutional amendment. The recommendations of the Advisory Council will address expected outcomes, curriculum and assessment standards, program delivery design, coordination with existing school readiness programs, best practices, and cost estimates.

The Advisory Council is chaired by [Lieutenant Governor Toni Jennings](#) and includes 20 members representing the school readiness system and the business community (see attached list of members).

The Advisory Council established a plan to conduct meetings and conference calls to review research, hear expert testimony, and develop options and recommendations for the SBE to consider in October 2003. Each meeting of the Council has provided opportunity for public input.

To keep members and the public informed about the plans and activities of the Council, a web site was established at www.upkcouncil.org. The web site provides background information, current announcements, the membership list, and contact information for

members and staff. In addition, the site has links to a wide variety of documents including meeting agendas, meeting reference material and other resource documents, and the work products of the Council. The site also provides a means for public comment, through an electronic "bulletin board" that is visible in its entirety by accessing the web site.

The Council organized its work around four topic areas:

- Outcomes
- Standards and Accountability
- Costs and Resources
- Delivery Design and Administrative Structure.

The Council has conducted six meetings to date:

- June 24 in Tallahassee focusing on guiding principles and outcome indicators of high quality prekindergarten education
- July 8 (conference call) to finalize outcome indicators
- July 23 in Orlando focusing on standards and accountability
- August 6 (conference call) to continue the discussion of standards
- August 10 in Ft. Lauderdale to conclude discussion of standards and initiate the topic of cost
- September 10 in Tallahassee focusing on cost and resources.

Attendance of members has been excellent and a large number of interested parties have attended each meeting. The meetings have been characterized by active participation by members and relevant public testimony. Future meetings are planned for:

- September 17 to focus on delivery design and administrative structure
- October 1 (conference call) to discuss recommendations and reporting
- October 15 to finalize the council's recommendations.

For additional information, contact Ms. Shan Goff, Department of Education (shan.goff@fldoe.org) or Ms. Lucy Hadi, Executive Office of the Governor (lucy.hadi@myflorida.org).

Supporting Documentation Included: List of members representing school readiness system and the business community.

Available for Questions: K-12 Chancellor Jim Warford