

CHAPTER 2019-126

House Bill No. 1027

An act relating to the Office of Early Learning; amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; requiring certain preservice and inservice training requirements established by the Office of Early Learning to include specified professional development pathways; creating s. 1002.995, F.S.; requiring the office to develop certain training and course standards for school readiness program providers; requiring the office to identify certain formal and informal career pathways, stackable credentials, and certifications that meet specified criteria for such providers; requiring such credentials and certifications to align with a specified training when possible; providing for rulemaking; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (v) of subsection (2) of section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.82 Office of Early Learning; powers and duties.—

(2) The office shall:

(v) Establish preservice and inservice training requirements that address, at a minimum, school readiness child development standards, health and safety requirements, and social-emotional behavior intervention models, which may include positive behavior intervention and support models, including the integration of early learning professional development pathways established in s. 1002.995.

Section 2. Section 1002.995, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1002.995 Early learning professional development standards and career pathways.—

(1) The office shall:

(a) Develop early learning professional development training and course standards to be utilized for school readiness program providers.

(b) Identify both formal and informal early learning career pathways with stackable credentials and certifications that allow early childhood teachers to access specialized professional development that:

1. Strengthens knowledge and teaching practices.
2. Aligns to established professional standards and core competencies.

3. Provides a progression of attainable, competency-based stackable credentials and certifications.

4. Improves outcomes for children to increase kindergarten readiness and early grade success.

(2) To the greatest extent possible, the credentials and certifications established pursuant to this section shall align with the training for K-12 teachers, reading coaches, and school principals in s. 1001.215(3).

(3) The office shall adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor June 24, 2019.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 24, 2019.