



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 703

SENATE BILL NO. 1899

By Dickerson, Haile, Yarbrow

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1485

By Mark White, Love, Akbari, Forgety, Harry Brooks, Byrd, McDaniel, Fitzhugh, Lamberth, Powell, Cooper, Gilmore, Dunlap, Favors, Miller, Turner, Hardaway, Sparks, Carr, Parkinson, Cameron Sexton, Camper, Kumar

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 1, relative to voluntary pre-k.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-103(a), is amended by deleting the punctuation "." at the end of the sentence and substituting instead the language "while meeting standards for kindergarten readiness."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-104(b), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivision (7) and by renumbering the subsequent subdivision accordingly:

(7) Meet the criteria for a "highly qualified pre-kindergarten program" as identified by the department of education;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-105, is amended by adding the following language as new, appropriately designated subsections:

(d) An LEA shall include as part of its application:

(1) A plan for ensuring coordination between voluntary pre-kindergarten classrooms and elementary schools within the LEA, with the goal of ensuring that elementary grade instruction builds upon pre-kindergarten classroom experiences;

(2) A plan for engaging parents and families of voluntary pre-kindergarten students throughout the school year; and

(3) A plan for delivering relevant and meaningful professional development to voluntary pre-kindergarten teachers, specific to ensuring a high quality pre-kindergarten experience.

(e) LEAs that receive pre-kindergarten program approval under §§ 49-6-103–49-6-110 shall utilize the pre-k/kindergarten growth portfolio model approved by the state board of education in the evaluation of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers pursuant to § 49-1-302.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-108, is further amended by adding the following language as subdivision (8):

(8) Annually make available to each LEA the applications submitted by the top performing pre-K programs across the state as determined by the ability to meet the criteria of being a highly qualified pre-K program, the results of site visits, and other indicators as determined by the department of education.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: March 21, 2016



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 10th day of April 2016



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR