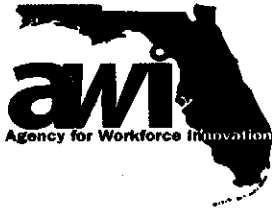


Copy to Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

**Agency for Workforce Innovation  
Six (6) Month Follow-Up Response  
OPPAGA Report No. 08-35, June 2008  
“The Governance Structure of Florida’s Early Education Programs  
Presents Some Administrative Challenges”**



**Charlie Crist**  
*Governor*  
**Monesia T. Brown**  
*Director*  
**James F. Mathews**  
*Inspector General*

December 31, 2008

Monesia T. Brown, Director  
Agency for Workforce Innovation  
Suite 212, Caldwell Building  
107 East Madison Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4120

Dear Director Brown:

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 20.055(5)(g), I am providing a six-month follow-up on the Agency's response to Report No. 08-35, issued by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) entitled: The Governance Structure of Florida's Early Education Programs Presents Some Administrative Challenges. The attached report was developed by the staff of the Office of Early Learning and it addresses the OPPAGA Report as deemed appropriate.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me and we will respond accordingly.

Sincerely,

James F. Mathews, C.I.G.  
Inspector General

JFM/sm

cc: Joint Legislative Auditing Committee  
Ms. Barbara Griffin  
Dr. Brittany Birken

Enclosure

**Office of Inspector General**

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**Six (6) Month Follow-Up Response**  
**OPPAGA Report No. 08-35, June 2008**  
**“The Governance Structure of Florida’s Early Education Programs**  
**Presents Some Administrative Challenges”**

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (the Agency) is committed to constantly strengthening the State of Florida’s comprehensive early learning system. In the six (6) months since the release of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) report on the governance structure of Florida’s early learning programs, the Agency continued to foster partnerships with other state agencies to coordinate and collaborate on a system that meets the needs of Florida’s children, families, and communities. The current structure provides a strong foundation for a premier early learning system.

The Agency continues to strive for excellence in delivering early learning programs to Florida’s children through technological, programmatic, and administrative improvements. Most notably, the Agency has vigorously pursued technological advancements that will result in administrative efficiencies and actual cost savings. In the OPPAGA report, it was noted that current data system limitations resulted in duplication and inefficiencies. The Agency has accomplished the following since the OPPAGA report was issued:

The Agency provided information in the original report response from a feasibility study completed in March 2008 on the development of a much needed statewide data system called the Early Learning Information System (ELIS). In response to specific recommendations from the Technology Review Workgroup (TRW), the 2008 General Appropriations Act provided \$500,000 in non-recurring Special Employment Security Administration Trust Fund budget authority for the Agency to:

- Specify and document the minimum information system requirements,
- Develop a business case,
- Calculate a cost-benefit analysis, and
- Define all business rules, interfaces, and customer and business system needs.

The Agency anticipates the completion of these tasks and the finalization of an updated Schedule IV-B Feasibility Study in January 2009. At that time, the Agency will have a revised project timeline and an estimated project cost. The current ELIS Schedule IV-B is included in the Agency’s Legislative Budget Request submission.

The projected cost savings, included in the draft feasibility study, indicate an estimated savings of \$28 million each year as the result of enhanced efficiencies in program and system operations. The Agency could utilize these funds to reduce the significant statewide child care waitlist and fund 7,000 additional children every year in the School Readiness program.

The Agency stands by its previous response to the OPPAGA report on the governance structure of Florida’s early learning programs, remains dedicated to administering the current system efficiently and effectively, and will persist in striving toward excellence in every program aspect.