

## OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

## DA14.01 Office for Children, Youth, and Families

The General Assembly recognizes the importance of ensuring that every child enters school ready to learn. To ensure that the State has an effective action plan for improving school readiness, the General Assembly hereby directs the subcabinet to revise its four school readiness strategies. In revising its strategies, it should develop an action plan that:

- (1) covers at least a five-year time period, thereby facilitating long-term planning and allowing for an assessment of progress made and an examination of why goals were not met;
- (2) includes a reasonable number of achievable goals with measurable objectives that have timelines for completion;
- (3) identifies the programs, based on available research and evaluation, that are most likely to lead to the desired outcome; and
- (4) can inform the budget process by prioritizing programs based on results and cost-effectiveness.

The revised strategic plan shall be due to the budget committees and the Joint Committee on Children, Youth, and Families by February 1, 2003. On that date annually thereafter, the subcabinet should submit status reports that examine progress toward meeting the plan's goals. To the extent that goals are not met, it should identify possible explanations for not meeting the goals and how any problems can be addressed. In addition, the subcabinet should use its