By Senator Stewart

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; expanding the information that charter schools must include on their websites; requiring specified teachers to have received, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree; revising requirements for all charter school facilities to include compliance with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code; amending s. 1002.42, F.S.; revising the information the Department of Education requires in a specified database relating to private schools; requiring private schools to provide specified students with a certain amount of time for recess; requiring private school students to participate in the statewide assessment program; requiring private schools to establish curricula that comply with specified standards; requiring teachers employed by or working under contract with private schools to meet specified requirements; requiring private schools to comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code; providing for injunctive relief under certain circumstances; authorizing attorney fees and costs; amending s. 1003.455, F.S.; deleting an exception relating to charter schools' compliance with a specified provision; amending s. 1008.34, F.S.; requiring private schools to be graded according to specified rules; requiring private schools to assess at least 95

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percent of eligible students; deleting obsolete language; requiring the department to annually develop, in collaboration with private schools, a school report card that private schools would provide to parents; amending s. 1013.385, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; reenacting ss. 163.3180(6)(h), 1002.32(9)(c), and 1002.345(1)(a), F.S., relating to concurrency, developmental research (laboratory) schools' funding, and determination of deteriorating financial conditions and financial emergencies for charter schools and charter technical career centers, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 1002.33, F.S., in references thereto; reenacting ss. 1002.385(2)(g), 1002.421(1), and 1007.271(2), F.S., relating to the Gardiner Scholarship, state school choice scholarship program accountability and oversight, and dual enrollment programs, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 1002.42, F.S., in references thereto; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7), paragraph (p) of subsection (9), paragraph (f) of subsection (12), and paragraph (a) of subsection (18) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.-

(7) CHARTER.—The terms and conditions for the operation of

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a charter school shall be set forth by the sponsor and the applicant in a written contractual agreement, called a charter. The sponsor and the governing board of the charter school shall use the standard charter contract pursuant to subsection (21), which shall incorporate the approved application and any addenda approved with the application. Any term or condition of a proposed charter contract that differs from the standard charter contract adopted by rule of the State Board of Education shall be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility. The sponsor may not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility to meet educational goals. The charter shall be signed by the governing board of the charter school and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

- (a) The charter shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on:
- 1. The school's mission, the students to be served, and the ages and grades to be included.
- 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be employed, and identification and acquisition of appropriate technologies needed to improve educational and administrative performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical, and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and professional standards.
- a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies

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for reading must be consistent with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and grounded in scientifically based reading research.

- b. In order to provide students with access to diverse instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to provide students with the skills they need to compete in the 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional methods for blended learning courses consisting of both traditional classroom and online instructional techniques. Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual instruction. Students in a blended learning course must be fulltime students of the charter school pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(a)1. Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s. 1012.55 who provide virtual instruction for blended learning courses may be employees of the charter school or may be under contract to provide instructional services to charter school students. At a minimum, such instructional personnel must hold an active state or school district adjunct certification under s. 1012.57 for the subject area of the blended learning course. The funding and performance accountability requirements for blended learning courses are the same as those for traditional courses.
- 3. The current incoming baseline standard of student academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed in this subparagraph shall include a detailed description of:
 - a. How the baseline student academic achievement levels and

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prior rates of academic progress will be established.

- b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of academic progress achieved by these same students while attending the charter school.
- c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress will be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other closely comparable student populations.

The district school board is required to provide academic student performance data to charter schools for each of their students coming from the district school system, as well as rates of academic progress of comparable student populations in the district school system.

- 4. The methods used to identify the educational strengths and needs of students and how well educational goals and performance standards are met by students attending the charter school. The methods shall provide a means for the charter school to ensure accountability to its constituents by analyzing student performance data and by evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of its major educational programs. Students in charter schools shall, at a minimum, participate in the statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.
- 5. In secondary charter schools, a method for determining that a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282.
- 6. A method for resolving conflicts between the governing board of the charter school and the sponsor.
- 7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures, including the school's code of student conduct. Admission or

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dismissal must not be based on a student's academic performance.

- 8. The ways by which the school will achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other public schools in the same school district.
- 9. The financial and administrative management of the school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional experience or competence of those individuals or organizations applying to operate the charter school or those hired or retained to perform such professional services and the description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter school. A description of internal audit procedures and establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are properly managed must be included. Both public sector and private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in such a consideration.
- 10. The asset and liability projections required in the application which are incorporated into the charter and shall be compared with information provided in the annual report of the charter school.
- 11. A description of procedures that identify various risks and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect others from violent or disruptive student behavior; and the manner in which the school will be insured, including whether or not the school will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage.

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12. The term of the charter which shall provide for cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be achieved before expiration of the charter. The initial term of a charter shall be for 5 years, excluding 2 planning years. In order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the district school board. A charter lab school is eligible for a charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a private, not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the district school board. Such long-term charters remain subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter, but only according to the provisions set forth in subsection (8).

- 13. The facilities to be used and their location. The sponsor may not require a charter school to have a certificate of occupancy or a temporary certificate of occupancy for such a facility earlier than 15 calendar days before the first day of school.
- 14. The qualifications to be required of the teachers and the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and retain qualified staff to achieve best value, notwithstanding the requirements of paragraph (12)(f).
 - 15. The governance structure of the school, including the

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status of the charter school as a public or private employer as required in paragraph (12)(i).

- 16. A timetable for implementing the charter which addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this timetable.
- 17. In the case of an existing public school that is being converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for current students who choose not to attend the charter school and for current teachers who choose not to teach in the charter school after conversion in accordance with the existing collective bargaining agreement or district school board rule in the absence of a collective bargaining agreement. However, alternative arrangements shall not be required for current teachers who choose not to teach in a charter lab school, except as authorized by the employment policies of the state university which grants the charter to the lab school.
- 18. Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives employed by the charter school who are related to the charter school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal, assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the purpose of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister.

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19. Implementation of the activities authorized under s. 1002.331 by the charter school when it satisfies the eligibility requirements for a high-performing charter school. A high-performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade levels the following school year. The written notice shall specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade levels that will be added, as applicable.

- (9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.-
- (p)1. Each charter school shall maintain a website that enables the public to obtain information regarding the school; the school's academic performance; the school's graduation rates; students' results on the statewide, standardized assessment; the names of the governing board members; the programs at the school; any management companies, service providers, or education management corporations associated with the school; the school's annual budget and its annual independent fiscal audit; the school's grade pursuant to s. 1008.34; and, on a quarterly basis, the minutes of governing board meetings.
- 2. Each charter school's governing board must appoint a representative to facilitate parental involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes. The representative must reside in the school district in which the charter school is located and may be a governing board member, a charter school employee, or an individual contracted to represent the governing board. If the governing board oversees multiple charter schools in the same school district, the governing board must appoint a

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separate representative for each charter school in the district. The representative's contact information must be provided annually in writing to parents and posted prominently on the charter school's website. The sponsor may not require governing board members to reside in the school district in which the charter school is located if the charter school complies with this subparagraph.

- 3. Each charter school's governing board must hold at least two public meetings per school year in the school district where the charter school is located. The meetings must be noticed, open, and accessible to the public, and attendees must be provided an opportunity to receive information and provide input regarding the charter school's operations. The appointed representative and charter school principal or director, or his or her designee, must be physically present at each meeting. Members of the governing board may attend in person or by means of communications media technology used in accordance with rules adopted by the Administration Commission under s. 120.54(5).
 - (12) EMPLOYEES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.-
- (f) Teachers employed by or under contract to a charter school <u>must shall</u> be certified as required by chapter 1012, and <u>must, at a minimum, have received a bachelor's degree</u>. A charter school governing board may employ or contract with skilled selected noncertified personnel to provide instructional services or to assist instructional staff members as education paraprofessionals in the same manner as defined in chapter 1012, and as provided by State Board of Education rule for charter school governing boards. A charter school may not knowingly employ an individual to provide instructional services or to

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serve as an education paraprofessional if the individual's certification or licensure as an educator is suspended or revoked by this or any other state. A charter school may not knowingly employ an individual who has resigned from a school district in lieu of disciplinary action with respect to child welfare or safety, or who has been dismissed for just cause by any school district with respect to child welfare or safety. The qualifications of teachers shall be disclosed to parents.

(18) FACILITIES.-

(a) A startup charter school shall utilize facilities which comply with the Florida Building Code pursuant to chapter 553 except for the State Requirements for Educational Facilities. Conversion charter schools shall utilize facilities that comply with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities provided that the school district and the charter school have entered into a mutual management plan for the reasonable maintenance of such facilities. The mutual management plan shall contain a provision by which the district school board agrees to maintain charter school facilities in the same manner as its other public schools within the district. Charter schools shall comply, with the exception of conversion charter schools, are not required to comply, but may choose to comply, with the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building Code adopted pursuant to s. 1013.37. The local governing authority may not shall not adopt or impose any local building requirements or site-development restrictions, such as parking and site-size criteria, student enrollment, and occupant load, that are addressed by and more stringent than those found in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building

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Code. A local governing authority must treat charter schools equitably in comparison to similar requirements, restrictions, and site planning processes imposed upon public schools that are not charter schools. The agency having jurisdiction for inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use shall be the local municipality or, if in an unincorporated area, the county governing authority. If an official or employee of the local governing authority refuses to comply with this paragraph, the aggrieved school or entity has an immediate right to bring an action in circuit court to enforce its rights by injunction. An aggrieved party that receives injunctive relief may be awarded attorney fees and court costs.

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (18) through (22) are added to that section, to read:

1002.42 Private schools.-

- (2) ANNUAL PRIVATE SCHOOL SURVEY.-
- (a) The Department of Education shall organize, maintain, and annually update a database of educational institutions within the state coming within the provisions of this section. There shall be included in The database of each institution must include the name, address, and telephone number of the institution; the type of institution; the names of administrative officers; the enrollment by grade or special group (e.g., career education and exceptional child education); the number of graduates and graduation rates; the number of instructional and administrative personnel; the number of days the school is in session; students' results on the statewide,

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standardized assessment; the school's annual budget; and such data as may be needed to meet the provisions of this section and s. 1003.23(2).

- (18) PHYSICAL EDUCATION.—Each private school shall provide at least 100 minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each week for students in kindergarten through grade 5 so that there are at least 20 consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day.
- (19) STATEWIDE, STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENTS.—Students in private schools shall participate in the statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.
- (20) NEXT GENERATION SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS.—Each private school shall establish a curriculum that complies with the standards set forth in s. 1003.41.
- (21) PRIVATE SCHOOL CLASSROOM TEACHERS.—Teachers employed by or under contract with a private school shall be certified as required by chapter 1012, and must, at a minimum, hold a bachelor's degree.
- Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida Building

 Code adopted pursuant to s. 1013.37. The local governing

 authority may not adopt or impose any local building

 requirements or site-development restrictions, such as parking

 and site-size criteria, student enrollment, and occupant load,

 that are addressed by and more stringent than those found in the

 State Requirements for Educational Facilities of the Florida

 Building Code. A local governing authority must treat private

 schools equitably with regard to requirements, restrictions, and

 site planning processes imposed upon public schools. The agency

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having jurisdiction for inspection of a facility and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or use is the local municipality or, if the private school is in an unincorporated area, the county governing authority. If an official or employee of the local governing authority refuses to comply with this subsection, the aggrieved school or entity has an immediate right to bring an action in circuit court to enforce its rights by injunction. An aggrieved party that receives injunctive relief may be awarded attorney fees and court costs.

Section 3. Subsection (6) of section 1003.455, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (3) of that section is republished, to read:

1003.455 Physical education; assessment.-

- (3) Each district school board shall provide 150 minutes of physical education each week for students in kindergarten through grade 5 and for students in grade 6 who are enrolled in a school that contains one or more elementary grades so that on any day during which physical education instruction is conducted there are at least 30 consecutive minutes per day. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, the equivalent of one class period per day of physical education for one semester of each year is required for students enrolled in grades 6 through 8. Students enrolled in such instruction shall be reported through the periodic student membership surveys, and records of such enrollment shall be audited pursuant to s. 1010.305. Such instruction may be provided by any instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2), regardless of certification, who are designated by the school principal.
 - (6) In addition to the requirements in subsection (3), each

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district school board shall provide at least 100 minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each week for students in kindergarten through grade 5 so that there are at least 20 consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day. This requirement does not apply to charter schools.

Section 4. Subsection (2), paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section 1008.34, Florida Statutes, are amended, to read:

1008.34 School grading system; school report cards; district grade.—

- (2) SCHOOL GRADES.—Schools, including private schools, shall be graded using one of the following grades, defined according to rules of the State Board of Education:
 - (a) "A," schools making excellent progress.
 - (b) "B," schools making above average progress.
 - (c) "C," schools making satisfactory progress.
 - (d) "D," schools making less than satisfactory progress.
 - (e) "F," schools failing to make adequate progress.

Each school that earns a grade of "A" or improves at least two letter grades may have greater authority over the allocation of the school's total budget generated from the FEFP, state categoricals, lottery funds, grants, and local funds.

- (3) DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL GRADES.-
- (a) Each school, including private schools, must assess at least 95 percent of its eligible students, except as provided under s. 1008.341 for alternative schools. Each school shall receive a school grade based on the school's performance on the components listed in subparagraphs (b)1. and 2. If a school does

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not have at least 10 students with complete data for one or more of the components listed in subparagraphs (b)1. and 2., those components may not be used in calculating the school's grade.

- 1. An alternative school may choose to receive a school grade under this section or a school improvement rating under s. 1008.341. For charter schools that meet the definition of an alternative school pursuant to State Board of Education rule, the decision to receive a school grade is the decision of the charter school governing board.
- 2. A school that serves any combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 that does not receive a school grade because its students are not tested and included in the school grading system shall receive the school grade designation of a K-3 feeder pattern school identified by the Department of Education and verified by the school district. A school feeder pattern exists if a majority of the students in the school serving a combination of students in kindergarten through grade 3 are scheduled to be assigned to the graded school.
- 3. If a collocated school does not earn a school grade or school improvement rating for the performance of its students, the student performance data of all schools operating at the same facility must be aggregated to develop a school grade that will be assigned to all schools at that location. A collocated school is a school that has its own unique master school identification number, provides for the education of each of its enrolled students, and operates at the same facility as another school that has its own unique master school identification number and provides for the education of each of its enrolled students.

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(b)1. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, A school's grade shall be based on the following components, each worth 100 points:

- a. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in English Language Arts under s. 1008.22(3).
- b. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in mathematics under s. 1008.22(3).
- c. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in science under s. 1008.22(3).
- d. The percentage of eligible students passing statewide, standardized assessments in social studies under s. 1008.22(3).
- e. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in English Language Arts as measured by statewide, standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).
- f. The percentage of eligible students who make Learning Gains in mathematics as measured by statewide, standardized assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).
- g. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25 percent in English Language Arts, as identified by prior year performance on statewide, standardized assessments, who make Learning Gains as measured by statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).
- h. The percentage of eligible students in the lowest 25 percent in mathematics, as identified by prior year performance on statewide, standardized assessments, who make Learning Gains as measured by statewide, standardized Mathematics assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3).
 - i. For schools comprised of middle grades 6 through 8 or

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grades 7 and 8, the percentage of eligible students passing high school level statewide, standardized end-of-course assessments or attaining national industry certifications identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

In calculating Learning Gains for the components listed in subsubparagraphs e.-h., the State Board of Education shall require that learning growth toward achievement levels 3, 4, and 5 is demonstrated by students who scored below each of those levels in the prior year. In calculating the components in subsubparagraphs a.-d., the state board shall include the performance of English language learners only if they have been enrolled in a school in the United States for more than 2 years.

- 2. For a school comprised of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12, or grades 10, 11, and 12, the school's grade shall also be based on the following components, each worth 100 points:
 - a. The 4-year high school graduation rate of the school as defined by state board rule.
 - b. The percentage of students who were eligible to earn college and career credit through College Board Advanced Placement examinations, International Baccalaureate examinations, dual enrollment courses, or Advanced International Certificate of Education examinations; or who, at any time during high school, earned national industry certification identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, pursuant to rules adopted by the state board.
 - (4) SCHOOL REPORT CARD.—The Department of Education shall annually develop, in collaboration with the school districts and

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private schools, a school report card to be provided by the school district or private school, as applicable, to parents within the district. The report card shall include the school's grade; student performance in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies; information regarding school improvement; an explanation of school performance as evaluated by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), 20 U.S.C. ss. 6301 et seq.; and indicators of return on investment. Each school's report card shall be published annually by the department on its website based upon the most recent data available.

Section 5. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 1013.385, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1013.385 School district construction flexibility.-

- (2) A resolution adopted under this section may propose implementation of exceptions to requirements of the uniform statewide building code for the planning and construction of public educational and ancillary plants adopted pursuant to ss. 553.73 and 1013.37 relating to:
- (e) Any other provisions that limit the ability of a school to operate in a facility on the same basis as a charter school pursuant to s. 1002.33(18) so long as the regional planning council determines that there is sufficient shelter capacity within the school district as documented in the Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan.

Section 6. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (h) of subsection (6) of section 163.3180, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

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163.3180 Concurrency.-

(6)

- (h)1. In order to limit the liability of local governments, a local government may allow a landowner to proceed with development of a specific parcel of land notwithstanding a failure of the development to satisfy school concurrency, if all the following factors are shown to exist:
- a. The proposed development would be consistent with the future land use designation for the specific property and with pertinent portions of the adopted local plan, as determined by the local government.
- b. The local government's capital improvements element and the school board's educational facilities plan provide for school facilities adequate to serve the proposed development, and the local government or school board has not implemented that element or the project includes a plan that demonstrates that the capital facilities needed as a result of the project can be reasonably provided.
- c. The local government and school board have provided a means by which the landowner will be assessed a proportionate share of the cost of providing the school facilities necessary to serve the proposed development.
- 2. If a local government applies school concurrency, it may not deny an application for site plan, final subdivision approval, or the functional equivalent for a development or phase of a development authorizing residential development for failure to achieve and maintain the level-of-service standard for public school capacity in a local school concurrency management system where adequate school facilities will be in

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place or under actual construction within 3 years after the issuance of final subdivision or site plan approval, or the functional equivalent. School concurrency is satisfied if the developer executes a legally binding commitment to provide mitigation proportionate to the demand for public school facilities to be created by actual development of the property, including, but not limited to, the options described in subsubparagraph a. Options for proportionate-share mitigation of impacts on public school facilities must be established in the comprehensive plan and the interlocal agreement pursuant to s. 163.31777.

a. Appropriate mitigation options include the contribution of land; the construction, expansion, or payment for land acquisition or construction of a public school facility; the construction of a charter school that complies with the requirements of s. 1002.33(18); or the creation of mitigation banking based on the construction of a public school facility in exchange for the right to sell capacity credits. Such options must include execution by the applicant and the local government of a development agreement that constitutes a legally binding commitment to pay proportionate-share mitigation for the additional residential units approved by the local government in a development order and actually developed on the property, taking into account residential density allowed on the property prior to the plan amendment that increased the overall residential density. The district school board must be a party to such an agreement. As a condition of its entry into such a development agreement, the local government may require the landowner to agree to continuing renewal of the agreement upon

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its expiration.

b. If the interlocal agreement and the local government comprehensive plan authorize a contribution of land; the construction, expansion, or payment for land acquisition; the construction or expansion of a public school facility, or a portion thereof; or the construction of a charter school that complies with the requirements of s. 1002.33(18), as proportionate-share mitigation, the local government shall credit such a contribution, construction, expansion, or payment toward any other impact fee or exaction imposed by local ordinance for public educational facilities, on a dollar-for-dollar basis at fair market value. The credit must be based on the total impact fee assessed and not on the impact fee for any particular type of school.

- c. Any proportionate-share mitigation must be directed by the school board toward a school capacity improvement identified in the 5-year school board educational facilities plan that satisfies the demands created by the development in accordance with a binding developer's agreement.
- 3. This paragraph does not limit the authority of a local government to deny a development permit or its functional equivalent pursuant to its home rule regulatory powers, except as provided in this part.

Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section 1002.32, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 1002.32 Developmental research (laboratory) schools.-
- (9) FUNDING.—Funding for a lab school, including a charter

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lab school, shall be provided as follows:

(c) All operating funds provided under this section shall be deposited in a Lab School Trust Fund and shall be expended for the purposes of this section. The university assigned a lab school shall be the fiscal agent for these funds, and all rules of the university governing the budgeting and expenditure of state funds shall apply to these funds unless otherwise provided by law or rule of the State Board of Education. The university board of trustees shall be the public employer of lab school personnel for collective bargaining purposes for lab schools in operation prior to the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Employees of charter lab schools authorized prior to June 1, 2003, but not in operation prior to the 2002-2003 fiscal year shall be employees of the entity holding the charter and must comply with the provisions of s. 1002.33(12).

Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 1002.345, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1002.345 Determination of deteriorating financial conditions and financial emergencies for charter schools and charter technical career centers.—This section applies to charter schools operating pursuant to s. 1002.33 and to charter technical career centers operating pursuant to s. 1002.34.

- (1) EXPEDITED REVIEW; REQUIREMENTS.—
- (a) A charter school or a charter technical career center is subject to an expedited review by the sponsor if one of the following occurs:
 - 1. Failure to provide for an audit required by s. 218.39.

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2. Failure to comply with reporting requirements pursuant to s. 1002.33(9) or s. 1002.34(11)(f) or (14).

- 3. A deteriorating financial condition identified through an annual audit pursuant to s. 218.39(5), a monthly financial statement pursuant to s. 1002.33(9)(g) or s. 1002.34(11)(f), or a quarterly financial statement pursuant to s. 1002.331(2)(c). "Deteriorating financial condition" means a circumstance that significantly impairs the ability of a charter school or a charter technical career center to generate enough revenues to meet its expenditures without causing the occurrence of a condition described in s. 218.503(1).
- 4. Notification pursuant to s. 218.503(2) that one or more of the conditions specified in s. 218.503(1) have occurred or will occur if action is not taken to assist the charter school or charter technical career center.

Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section 1002.385, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1002.385 The Gardiner Scholarship.-

- (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- (g) "Eligible private school" means a private school, as defined in s. 1002.01, which is located in this state, which offers an education to students in any grade from kindergarten to grade 12, and which meets the requirements of:
 - 1. Sections 1002.42 and 1002.421; and
- 2. A scholarship program under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395, as applicable, if the private school participates in a scholarship program under s. 1002.39 or s. 1002.395.

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Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 1002.421, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1002.421 State school choice scholarship program accountability and oversight.—

- (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private school participating in an educational scholarship program established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific requirements identified within respective scholarship program laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private schools, and must:
- (a) Comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d.
- (b) Notify the department of its intent to participate in a scholarship program.
- (c) Notify the department of any change in the school's name, school director, mailing address, or physical location within 15 days after the change.
- (d) Provide to the department or scholarship-funding organization all documentation required for a student's participation, including the private school's and student's individual fee schedule, and attendance verification as required by the department or scholarship-funding organization, prior to scholarship payment.
 - (e) Annually complete and submit to the department a

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notarized scholarship compliance statement certifying that all school employees and contracted personnel with direct student contact have undergone background screening pursuant to s. 943.0542 and have met the screening standards as provided in s. 435.04.

- (f) Demonstrate fiscal soundness and accountability by:
- 1. Being in operation for at least 3 school years or obtaining a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter and filing the surety bond or letter of credit with the department.
- 2. Requiring the parent of each scholarship student to personally restrictively endorse the scholarship warrant to the school or to approve a funds transfer before any funds are deposited for a student. The school may not act as attorney in fact for the parent of a scholarship student under the authority of a power of attorney executed by such parent, or under any other authority, to endorse a scholarship warrant or approve a funds transfer on behalf of such parent.
- (g) Meet applicable state and local health, safety, and welfare laws, codes, and rules, including:
 - 1. Firesafety.
 - 2. Building safety.
- (h) Employ or contract with teachers who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees, have at least 3 years of teaching experience in public or private schools, or have special skills, knowledge, or expertise that qualifies them to provide instruction in subjects taught.
- (i) Maintain a physical location in the state at which each student has regular and direct contact with teachers.

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(j) Publish on the school's website, or provide in a written format, information for parents regarding the school, including, but not limited to, programs, services, and the qualifications of classroom teachers.

- (k) At a minimum, provide the parent of each scholarship student with a written explanation of the student's progress on a quarterly basis.
- (1) Cooperate with a student whose parent chooses to participate in the statewide assessments pursuant to s. 1008.22.
- (m) Require each employee and contracted personnel with direct student contact, upon employment or engagement to provide services, to undergo a state and national background screening, pursuant to s. 943.0542, by electronically filing with the Department of Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an employee of the private school, a school district, or a private company who is trained to take fingerprints and deny employment to or terminate an employee if he or she fails to meet the screening standards under s. 435.04. Results of the screening shall be provided to the participating private school. For purposes of this paragraph:
- 1. An "employee or contracted personnel with direct student contact" means any employee or contracted personnel who has unsupervised access to a scholarship student for whom the private school is responsible.
- 2. The costs of fingerprinting and the background check shall not be borne by the state.
- 3. Continued employment of an employee or contracted personnel after notification that he or she has failed the

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background screening under this paragraph shall cause a private school to be ineligible for participation in a scholarship program.

- 4. An employee or contracted personnel holding a valid Florida teaching certificate who has been fingerprinted pursuant to s. 1012.32 is not required to comply with the provisions of this paragraph.
- 5. All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement as required by this section shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement in a manner provided by rule and entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). Such fingerprints shall thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.
- 6. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system under subparagraph 5. Any arrest record that is identified with the retained fingerprints of a person subject to the background screening under this section shall be reported to the employing school with which the person is affiliated. Each private school participating in a scholarship program is required to participate in this search process by informing the Department of Law Enforcement of any change in the employment or contractual status of its personnel whose fingerprints are retained under subparagraph 5. The Department of Law Enforcement shall adopt a rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon each private school for performing

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these searches and establishing the procedures for the retention of private school employee and contracted personnel fingerprints and the dissemination of search results. The fee may be borne by the private school or the person fingerprinted.

- 7. Employees and contracted personnel whose fingerprints are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraphs 5. and 6. are required to be refingerprinted and must meet state and national background screening requirements upon reemployment or reengagement to provide services in order to comply with the requirements of this section.
- 8. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to provide services with a private school, employees or contracted personnel required to be screened under this section must meet screening standards under s. 435.04, at which time the private school shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing. If the fingerprints of employees or contracted personnel are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 5., employees and contracted personnel must electronically file a complete set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the private school shall request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 5.
- (n) Adopt policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for instructional personnel and school administrators. The policies must require all instructional personnel and school

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administrators, as defined in s. 1012.01, to complete training on the standards; establish the duty of instructional personnel and school administrators to report, and procedures for reporting, alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student; and include an explanation of the liability protections provided under ss. 39.203 and 768.095. A private school, or any of its employees, may not enter into a confidentiality agreement regarding terminated or dismissed instructional personnel or school administrators, or personnel or administrators who resign in lieu of termination, based in whole or in part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, and may not provide the instructional personnel or school administrators with employment references or discuss the personnel's or administrators' performance with prospective employers in another educational setting, without disclosing the personnel's or administrators' misconduct. Any part of an agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of concealing misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student is void, is contrary to public policy, and may not be enforced.

(o) Before employing instructional personnel or school administrators in any position that requires direct contact with students, conduct employment history checks of each of the personnel's or administrators' previous employers, screen the personnel or administrators through use of the educator screening tools described in s. 1001.10(5), and document the findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the private

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school must document efforts to contact the employer.

- (p) Require each owner or operator of the private school, prior to employment or engagement to provide services, to undergo level 2 background screening as provided under chapter 435. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "owner or operator" means an owner, operator, superintendent, or principal of, or a person with equivalent decisionmaking authority over, a private school participating in a scholarship program established pursuant to this chapter. The fingerprints for the background screening must be electronically submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement and may be taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or a private company who is trained to take fingerprints. However, the complete set of fingerprints of an owner or operator may not be taken by the owner or operator. The owner or operator shall provide a copy of the results of the state and national criminal history check to the Department of Education. The cost of the background screening may be borne by the owner or operator.
- 1. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to provide services, each owner or operator must meet level 2 screening standards as described in s. 435.04, at which time the owner or operator shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 screening. If the fingerprints of an owner or operator are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 2., the owner or operator must electronically file a complete set of fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the owner or operator shall request that the

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Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for level 2 screening, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 2.

- 2. Fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law Enforcement as required by this paragraph must be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement in a manner approved by rule and entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). The fingerprints must thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.
- 3. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric identification system under subparagraph 2. Any arrest record that is identified with an owner's or operator's fingerprints must be reported to the owner or operator, who must report to the Department of Education. Any costs associated with the search shall be borne by the owner or operator.
- 4. An owner or operator who fails the level 2 background screening is not eligible to participate in a scholarship program under this chapter.
- 5. In addition to the offenses listed in s. 435.04, a person required to undergo background screening pursuant to this part or authorizing statutes may not have an arrest awaiting final disposition for, must not have been found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, and must not have been adjudicated delinquent for,

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and the record must not have been sealed or expunged for, any of the following offenses or any similar offense of another jurisdiction:

- a. Any authorizing statutes, if the offense was a felony.
- b. This chapter, if the offense was a felony.
 - c. Section 409.920, relating to Medicaid provider fraud.
 - d. Section 409.9201, relating to Medicaid fraud.
 - e. Section 741.28, relating to domestic violence.
- f. Section 817.034, relating to fraudulent acts through mail, wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photooptical systems.
- g. Section 817.234, relating to false and fraudulent insurance claims.
 - h. Section 817.505, relating to patient brokering.
- i. Section 817.568, relating to criminal use of personal identification information.
- j. Section 817.60, relating to obtaining a credit card through fraudulent means.
- k. Section 817.61, relating to fraudulent use of credit cards, if the offense was a felony.
 - 1. Section 831.01, relating to forgery.
 - m. Section 831.02, relating to uttering forged instruments.
- n. Section 831.07, relating to forging bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.
- o. Section 831.09, relating to uttering forged bank bills, checks, drafts, or promissory notes.
- p. Section 831.30, relating to fraud in obtaining medicinal drugs.
 - q. Section 831.31, relating to the sale, manufacture,

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delivery, or possession with the intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver any counterfeit controlled substance, if the offense was a felony.

- 6. At least 30 calendar days before a transfer of ownership of a private school, the owner or operator shall notify the parent of each scholarship student.
- 7. The owner or operator of a private school that has been deemed ineligible to participate in a scholarship program pursuant to this chapter may not transfer ownership or management authority of the school to a relative in order to participate in a scholarship program as the same school or a new school. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father, mother, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister.
- (q) Provide a report from an independent certified public accountant who performs the agreed-upon procedures developed pursuant to s. 1002.395(6)(o) if the private school receives more than \$250,000 in funds from scholarships awarded under this chapter in a state fiscal year. A private school subject to this subsection must annually submit the report by September 15 to the scholarship-funding organization that awarded the majority of the school's scholarship funds. However, a school that receives more than \$250,000 in scholarship funds only through the John M. McKay Scholarship for Students with Disabilities Program pursuant to s. 1002.39 must submit the annual report by

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September 15 to the department. The agreed-upon procedures must be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may determine that the private school is ineligible to participate in a scholarship program.

Section 11. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 1002.42, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 1007.271, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1007.271 Dual enrollment programs.

(2) For the purpose of this section, an eligible secondary student is a student who is enrolled in any of grades 6 through 12 in a Florida public school or in a Florida private school that is in compliance with s. 1002.42(2) and provides a secondary curriculum pursuant to s. 1003.4282. Students who are eligible for dual enrollment pursuant to this section may enroll in dual enrollment courses conducted during school hours, after school hours, and during the summer term. However, if the student is projected to graduate from high school before the scheduled completion date of a postsecondary course, the student

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may not register for that course through dual enrollment. The student may apply to the postsecondary institution and pay the required registration, tuition, and fees if the student meets the postsecondary institution's admissions requirements under s. 1007.263. Instructional time for dual enrollment may vary from 900 hours; however, the full-time equivalent student membership value shall be subject to the provisions in s. 1011.61(4). A student enrolled as a dual enrollment student is exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees. Applied academics for adult education instruction, developmental education, and other forms of precollegiate instruction, as well as physical education courses that focus on the physical execution of a skill rather than the intellectual attributes of the activity, are ineligible for inclusion in the dual enrollment program. Recreation and leisure studies courses shall be evaluated individually in the same manner as physical education courses for potential inclusion in the program. Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

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